



Price of a barrel
of petroleum

US\$ 71.94

↓ 0.3

INSIDE TODAY

WORLD NEWS

TALI-BOMBED

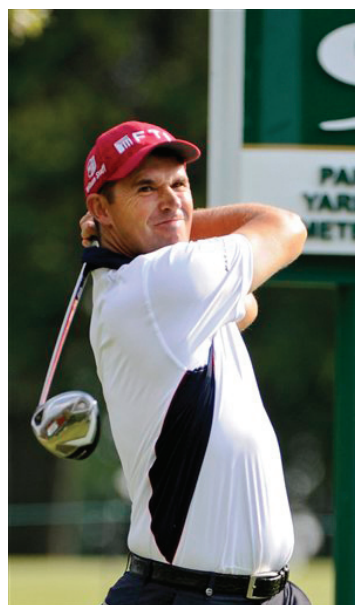


In this photo taken Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2009, Pakistani villagers look at a house belonging to supporters of Pakistani Taliban leader Baitullah Mehsud which was destroyed by authorities in Dera Ismail Khan, Pakistan.

See International News on
Page B7

SPORTS NEWS

ON FIRE



Padraig Harrington, from Ireland, tees off on the ninth hole during the first round of the Bridgestone Invitational golf tournament Thursday, Aug. 6, 2009, at Firestone Country Club in Akron, Ohio. Harrington leads the tournament at 6-under par.

See Sports Today on Page B10

Nelson Rodríguez of Garufa Cocktail Lounge

Garufa wins Bacardi Contest Winner



ORANJESTAD – Recently, history was made with the Aruba Bacardi Contest 2009. Seventeen people participated in

this event, judging this event was the Bartender association of Aruba consisting of a Visual Judge and a tasting judge, at the

end of all this the judges based on scores took out the winners of this contest.

Continued on Next Page

Dutch Education Minister meets with Antillean, Aruban students

ROTTERDAM--Antillean and Aruban students who recently migrated to the Netherlands were surprised on Tuesday by a spontaneous visit in Rotterdam from Education, Culture and Science Minister Ronald Plasterk.

The students were informed at the last minute of the Minister's arrival. The Minister decided to pay them a visit after seeing photographs in an Aruban newspaper, while on vacation in the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba, of the emotional departure of the Aruban students to the Netherlands to further their studies.

Despite being on vacation, Plasterk decided to return to the Netherlands and made a call to the Hogeschool in Rotterdam to inform the students that he would be paying them a visit. During the visit, Plasterk

listened very attentively as the students relayed their experiences so far in terms of the cultural transition, such as the punctuality of the Dutchman.

Having himself arrived late to the school, Plasterk joked, "I was here too late, but that comes probably because I was just three weeks on the Antilles and Aruba."

"Dutchmen have a tendency to be quite direct. If you are in the Antilles and you ask someone something and they say 'perhaps,' you know that he means 'no.' If a Dutchman says 'no' he normally means 'no.' Then you would think that was so unkind to do, but I assure you it is totally not unkind," Plasterk noted.

Plasterk told the students that in the Netherlands there are similar cultural differences to

in the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba, where there is rivalry between Curaçao and Aruba. He said within the Netherlands there are large differences between Rotterdam and Amsterdam, the north and the south.

"Make friends, especially with the Dutch students. That will be good for your Dutch speaking and you can learn from each other. I wish you all fantastic years here and much success with your studies,"



Minister Plasterk said in words of encouragement to the students. □



CHOCOLATE, CARAMEL AND COOKIE
THE TWIX MIX
IN THE NEW McFLURRY





Garufa wins Bacardi Contest Winner



Nelson created the Bacardi Summer Martini. He got his trophy plus a plane ticket to Puerto Rico, to represent Aruba in the Bacardi bartenders contest the plus \$500 spending money. Bacardi Aruba and Licores Aruba would like to give a big thanks to all the bartenders that

participated in this great event and also to all the bands that demonstrated their musical skill on that evening, and most of all the public that came and enjoyed all that was to offer. Bacardi promises to be bigger next year and with a bigger computation yet for the summer of 2010. □



Continued from Front Page

Third place: Gino Tromp of Chalet Suisse. The name of Gino's drink was: Framboise d'Amour. He got his trophy plus a ticket to Curaçao with Tiara Air and \$100 spending money.

Second place: Arabany (Bonny) Naranjo of the La Cabana. Arabany the drink was: Rumbadi. He got his winnings, a plane ticket to Riohacha, Colombia cu Tiara Air plus \$300 spending money.

First place: Nelson Rodríguez of Garufa Cocktail Lounge.



Brooks Tower Accord execution to start in middle of September

WILLEMSTAD--All new or renovated offices for Immigration and Police Affairs should be completed soon and operational on the five islands of the Netherlands Antilles, allowing for implementation of the Brooks Tower Accord through which undocumented people who qualify can legalise their status.

According to the Ministry of Justice, with the infrastructure in place registration and the legalisation of undocumented people will begin in phases between September 15 and 20.

Those first in line to be vetted for residency are people who entered the Antilles before December 31, 2001, followed by those who entered between January 1, 2002 and January 1, 2006, and then people who entered after January 1, 2006.

People in group one can apply for permits on their merits, while the persons in group two need to have their employers file applications. People in group three will be treated humanely, but for them there is no possibility of legalising their status and they must leave the country. If necessary, they can apply for residency from their countries of origin.

The conditions for application will be published in the media soon and will be available at various embassies and consulates, at the admissions organisations and Department of Labour Affairs. The registration and handling of undocumented people will be evaluated along the way.

An interim chief to handle these matters has been appointed in St. Maarten. Also a new location to better cater to Immigration needs has been found. The office of Police Affairs will

move to A.Th. Illidge Road at month's end, after which the office in Sun Color Paint Building will be furnished for "registration and handling undocumented people."

Like Bonaire and Curaçao, St. Maarten now has an adequately furnished office on A.Th. Illidge Road to offer regular services.

For the project in Curaçao, a suitable location is being sought that will be used for consultation with the Department of Labour Affairs. Offices at Waaigat will still be used for regular services.

The Foreigner Management System (FMS) in Bonaire is operational and kinks are being ironed out of it.

The Brooks Tower agreement, signed in St. Maarten on March 2, 2007, by Minister of Justice David Dick and the Lt. Governors of the five islands, describes how to deal with the problem

of the undocumented people in the Antilles. There have been repeated calls for the implementation of the accord from various sectors on St. Maarten, including unions and opposition Democratic Party (DP), in the past months.

Outgoing Justice Minister Dick said it was not possible

to publish information about the accord implementation because the basic conditions such as regular Immigration services had to be guaranteed before the problem of undocumented people could be tackled.

This was the reason the new location and additional personnel were needed.

Special Month of August!

Appetizer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fish Soup • Onion Soup • Conch Fritters • Escargot • Salad
Entrée	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fresh Catch of the Day prepared by our local chef just the way you like it. • Jumbo Shrimp from our local waters, breaded served with potato or rice or with garlic tossed over linguine. • Filet Mignon 8 oz. US Tenderloin • Grilled Boneless Chicken Breast
Dessert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chocolate or Banana Cake • Ice Cream • Coffee / Tea

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amazon.com and you're done! bn.com amazonkindle

FAVI **"FAVI FUNDACION CU VISION"**

Larimar Spa hosts a Kerastase Workshop



PALM BEACH -- Guest educator Maribel Borroto spent time with a select group of island hair stylists at

Larimar Spa. Medicosmetics Aruba NV organized the workshop at the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa

with a theory session in one of the conference rooms and a practice session at Larimar Spa, which prominently



displays the quality products and prides itself on using them.

Larimar Spa offers a full service hair salon with two dedicated in-house stylists who specialize in weddings and gala events. The spa recently introduced a brand new Lava Shell massage that is both dreamy and relaxing, designed to delight fans of the hot-stone massage.

The spa now enjoys a dedicated parking lot so that patrons may park to the side of the spa building and walk right into its welcoming embrace without the need to cross the hotel lobby.

With special offers designed to please local patrons and with special summer rates for island visitors Larimar Spa,

on Conde Nast Traveler hot spa list, features a spacious relaxation area, steam, sauna and cold plunge, boutique and a state of the art fitness center featuring a wide variety of services from the traditional to the exotic for both women and men in 13,000 square feet of pure indulgence. □



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Saturday \$25 buy-in
Sunday \$10 buy-in \$1,500 (at 5pm)

(Tournaments are subject to charge as per Management criteria)
Only Casino in Aruba Where dealer stands on Soft 17

At the Radisson Aruba Resort Spa & Casino

Patrons of the Silent Auction collect their paintings



PALM BEACH – The Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa recently celebrated its 50th anniversary with a fund raising gala in the Grand Caribbean Ballroom. The gala benefited the Aruba Scholarship Foundation which dedicates funds raised in the community to continuous

education in the hospitality field.

In honor of the gala, the resort commissioned three different painting from Elvis Tromp, a self-taught Aruban-born painter and graphic designer. All three canvases depict the Grande Dame, the famed 50 year old building originally

designed by American architect Morris Lapidus in the late 50s, from different angles. Generous patrons of the art and gala-goers Frank Loverro and Claire Grell Loverro and Mrs. Karl Wever won the silent auction and had the privilege of meet the artist and personally receiving their painting from him.

Pictured here, the congenial lobby gathering as the paintings were presented to their new owners. Claire Grell Loverro, an island native residing in NY with her attorney husband, reports she already has a prominent spot for the painting display at her home in NY.

About Elvis Tromp: Working mostly in oils, Elvis paints charming Aruban landscapes which always thrill art and island lovers.

Tromp has been painting Aruban landscapes since he was a child and enjoys making each scene a personal interpretation. He also finds time to paint portraits of friends and family members. As a self-taught artist, Elvis



had the opportunity to discover his environment, his style and technique, his own way. Although challenging and slow at the get go, it became easier later and Elvis worked his way

to becoming a much-respected and frequently-exhibited local artist. He currently shows an extensive painting collection at the Aruba Westin Resort's lobby art gallery. □



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At The Westin Resort, Aruba

"Triple Happy Hour" tonight at the WESTIN

Everyone will be there tonight!



PALMBEACH – There's a new hot Happy Hour on the island and it's at The Westin Resort, Aruba. Tonight the venue will be at the Tambu Bar for three hours of drink specials, hors d' oeuvres, live music, and dancing from 7:00pm to 10:00pm.

The most amazing dance music will be provided by Czar and the Untokables who help create the ambience.

Many local happy hour regulars have departed from their traditional Friday evening haunts to enjoy a



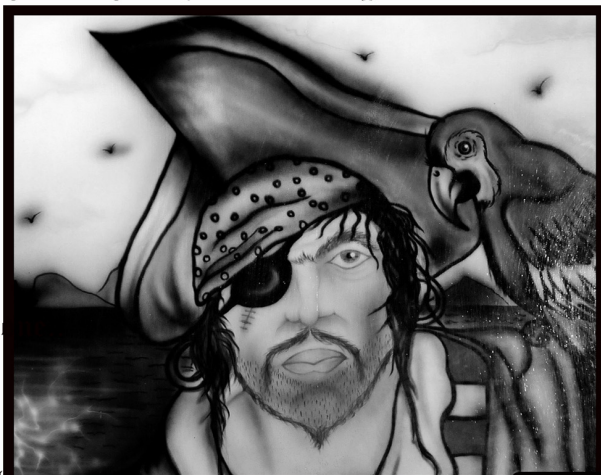
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fresh and new environ in the contemporary setting along with many Westin guests who turned out for the fun

event and a chance to drink and dance with the locals. The event is a regular happening that takes place

on the first Friday of every month.

See you there tonight! ☐

~ Photos by Julia Renfro



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The PTFSA building is showing great progress



EAGLE – The PTFSA, Pension Fund Tourism Sector Aruba building on Sasakiweg is showing great construction progress, and the builders have just announced that shortly

they will be topping the roof in a traditional Spantenbier ceremony.

The new public building, says Sanaa Bergen, PTFSA Executive Director, has 1,400 m2 available for rent and the PTFSA is looking for a serious long term tenant to occupy the space.

Pension Fund Tourism Sector Aruba has planned a modern facility in the area of the hospital with easy parking facing Sasakiweg for convenient access. The three sections of 350 square meters each will be occupied both downstairs and upstairs and will become an established business center as soon as the building opens on November 15, 2009. □



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Café de Pijp opens its doors at South Beach Center – Palm Beach!

Bring this article for a FREE Heineken draft beer per person



PALM BEACH - Last week, Café de Pijp officially inaugurated its authentic "OUD HOLLANDS CAFÉ" conveniently located at the South Beach Center in Palm Beach opposite Segafredo. Café de Pijp has been operating since June 19th and has now made the opening official with various members of the press and guests. All guests received a warm welcome from the management in a nice and cozy ambiance with entertainment of the band The Equator.

Café de Pijp has been designed and founded by Mr. Alex de Haan. He has a

lot of experience with this kind of specific Oud Hollands Café in the Netherlands. The interior of Café de Pijp, which is almost 60 m2, has been constructed with dark wood materials which give the ambiance a very cozy and warm feeling.

They play all kinds of music, from Dutch, to English to Latin American. Every day you can enjoy the peanut consumption with your favorite drink. This peanut concept "Pelpinda's" is a typical Dutch custom, where the guests of the Dutch bar peel their peanuts and throw the shells on the floor and enjoy doing it! When entering the Dutch bar and encountering all the peanut shells on the floor, don't be surprised, as this is one of the most common custom for a typical Old Dutch Bar in the Netherlands.

Café de Pijp will have several activities programmed for its guests in the near future. These activities include Dart competitions among other cafes and guests, Karaoke nights, Jazz nights and Salsa nights. **Café de Pijp serves delicious snacks for its guests and invites their customers to enjoy these snacks free of charge on Friday afternoons.** Café de Pijp will also have their "Pijpjesavond" where one can buy beer at a very inexpensive price. Café de Pijp will also offer



a special drink of the week for the non beer drinkers. **Heineken draught beer will have a price of only AWG 5,- every day.**

For one month Café de Pijp will have a special Grand Opening offer in newspapers. Bring the newspaper ad and get a FREE Heineken draught beer with this ad per person. Do not miss this special offer, just bring it to Café de Pijp and enjoy your FREE beer in a typical "OUD HOLLANDS CAFÉ" Café

de Pijp offers its customers very attractive consumption prices compared to other bars in the vicinity, a great ambiance and LIVE entertainment by Alex as well!

We invite you to visit us at the South Beach Center and experience the fun yourself! For more information please call us at 745-4706.



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People from all over the world get together at Bugaloe: they have a few drinks, a bite to eat, they dance and sway and make new friends. If you have gotten curious here and now, check out the website www.bugaloe.com and you will see at one place what we are talking about. No words will be needed anymore. Surf to the website for the Bugaloe Event Calendar or leave a note in the Guestbook.

Bugaloe is located at De Palm Pier in Palm Beach between RIU Palace and Radisson Resort.

Bugaloe's daily Happy Hours are considered the starting signal for an evening of partying on the island. Locals mingle with visitors and raise their glasses. When you get hungry, order a scrumptious burger, a gourmet pizza, tasty wings or a salad and party on.



The night is young, the world is going crazy and you are right in the middle of a super happening. What's not to like?

Bugaloe Beach Bar puts on live bands on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.

Joyride, PM Band, DJ Jeroen and Marisela & Aquarius are playing the stars from the sky. These musical talents draw the crowds, so be there or be square!

For more information go to www.bugaloe.com.

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Tina & Dwayne tie the knot



RADISSON-On July 11, 2009, Tina Dolcimascolo & Dwayne Markland vowed their love as one.

The lovebird's paths crossed in 2002. Tina Dolcimascolo at that time was working part time at an Acura Dealership in Brooklyn which Dwayne manages. This co-worker friendship turned out to as an everlasting love. Tina & Dwayne have a special spot where Dwayne first kissed her during a Christmas party in 2002 and the dating

began.

On January 1, 2008 during a small get together to bring in the New Year, Dwayne left his party for a beer run and asked Tina to go with him. Tina kept insisting that they hurry home since neither of them were there to entertain their guests. Dwayne pulled over at their special spot and surprised Tina. Dwayne opened up the passenger door and got down on one knee to ask her to be his Mrs.

Dwayne and Tina have made a

major impact on each other's lives thus far. They have taught each other some of life's most valuable lessons. They have never given up on each other and have always respected each other's feelings. Their relationship reminds Tina of a famous Shakespeare quote "True love is an ever fixed mark, and it will stand up through the end of time"..... The wedding day was perfect at Radisson Resort with over 110 of their closest family & friends gathered together to witness the union of marriage. The Officiate Andy Osbourne delivered the sermon as Tina & Dwayne exchanged vows and combined sand into vases to symbolize their love. Following the wedding a dinner reception took place at the pool deck of Radisson Resort. The evening was truly a night to remember for the newlyweds and their guests under the starlit night with delicious food and great entertainment that will be forever cherished. "Words cannot truly describe our wedding. It was a very relaxing, exciting and memorable day for us, especially since we knew we were in good hands with Ceremonies and Celebrations in Aruba, the staff at Radisson and Angela of Bella Aruba Photography. We were truly able to enjoy each and every moment together. The day was ours! Everyone did a



wonderful job in executing the event. Everything from the beautiful flowers, draped chairs and gorgeous bouquets, to the delicious food, great drinks and the very patient and organized photographer Angela. We couldn't ask for anything more. Upon returning to Brooklyn, our

guests continue to call us and thank us for making them part of our special day as well as introducing them to such a beautiful island..

Thank You Aruba!!! We'll be back in paradise soon," stated Dwayne & Tina Markland. □

Photos by Angela Munzenhofer



Agreement on building of air-measuring station

WILLEMSTAD—Curaçao's Commissioner of Public Health and Social Affairs Humphrey Davelaar (PNP) signed an agreement with the GGD Amsterdam (Area Health Authority) for the construction of an air-measuring station on Curaçao. This station will measure the air pollution caused by the Isla oil refinery.

Davelaar has been in the Netherlands for over a week now, where he held conversations with GGD Amsterdam and the Environmental Department of Rijnmond DCMR. These conversations regarded the goal of the Executive Council to uphold the environmental standards that the Isla refinery was to conform to due to a judicial sentence.

In order to accomplish this, the government wants to have an air-measuring station built in cooperation with the GGD Amsterdam and DCMR. The agreement's point of departure was that the GGD Amsterdam's department of Air Quality would construct an air-measuring station on the island.

In addition, the GGD will also assist the management of the station during a two-year period. Furthermore, the DCMR will assist the local Environmental Department in upholding the guidelines and the drawing up of sanctions if these standards were not complied with. □

Richland grad playing in Curacao

Richland High School graduate Mary Pavlovich is on her second international trip to play softball. The Bucknell University standout was selected to play for USA Athletes International in Curacao, an island off the coast of Venezuela. The Curacao Friendship Series began on Monday and will continue through Aug. 10. The event serves as both a goodwill tour and helps to promote the sport of softball outside of the United States. Last summer, Pavlovich was on the USA team that competed in Sydney, Australia. Members of the team were selected from universities throughout the country. USA International is a nonprofit organization that is dedicated to providing amateur athletes the opportunity to participate in international Olympic-style sporting events throughout the world. Last summer, Pavlovich's USA team was undefeated

and won the gold medal at Olympic Stadium in Sydney. In May, Pavlovich was named to the 2009 ESPN The Magazine Academic All-District II Team after attaining a 3.63 grade point average while majoring in biology-biochemistry. During her junior year, she made the Dean's List and was on the Patriot League Academic Honor Roll.

Pavlovich is active off campus as well, serving as a resident assistant for a freshman hall at Bucknell and interning with state Sen. John Wozniak, D-Westmont. She also umpired for the V.E. Erickson Little League. Primarily a third baseman, Pavlovich has a .276 career batting average and ranks eighth at Bucknell in career doubles with 27. That total included 15 doubles as a freshman, which led the league. As a sophomore, she was a second-team All-Patriot League pick. □

No preliminary meeting with Second Chamber committee

WILLEMSTAD--The Antillean Parliament is prepared to exchange ideas with the Dutch Parliament early next year on the draft Kingdom consensus laws now on the table.

However, an official preliminary consultation as suggested by the Dutch Second Chamber's Committee for Antillean and Aruban Affairs NAAZ was out of the question. That was the position taken by the Committee of Kingdom Affairs and Inter-parliamentary Relations of the Antillean Parliament. It was decided during a committee meeting that a proposal to that effect would be presented in a public meeting. This proposal will suggest that Parliament chairman Pedro Atacho (PAR) send a letter to NAAZ-chairman Willibrord van Beek, stating that the Antilles would comply with what is laid down in the

Kingdom Charter regarding this subject.

In an explanation, Committee Chairman Glenn Sulvaran stated that the Antillean Parliament was not the discussion partner of the Dutch Second- and First- Chamber in this matter. They should approach Dutch Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende and State Secretary of Kingdom Relations Ank Bijleveld-Schouten (both CDA) for possible amendments.

"We have no problem with exchanging ideas, but this is only feasible next year."

Van Beek had invited the Antillean Parliament and also the Island Councils of Curaçao and St. Maarten to a preliminary consultation in October. The Parliament will decline this invitation. It is now up to the Island Councils of Curaçao and St. Maarten to decide whether or not they will accept. □

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Fried Calamari with Marinara Sauce

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or
Pan-fried Mahi-Mahi
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Chicken Breast Picatta
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Amsterdam redefines town-twinning as aid

By Jos Verlaan

Many places in the Netherlands and the world have 'twin' or 'sister cities' in other countries. Amsterdam has decided to take the concept in a new direction: its city services are now involved in development aid in 13 countries.

Call it the city as an export product. Forty different departments of the city of Amsterdam have been exporting their expertise to the Dutch capital's twin cities in 13 different countries. They help out with public transport, housing, fire fighting, health care or even citizen participation. It adds up to an investment of over 10 million euros in the past four years alone.

The programme is part of the city's development aid policy. Amsterdam has had one for a while, but in the eighties it involved mostly politically motivated projects in countries like Nicaragua or Mozambique. Since 2001 Amsterdam has started concentrating on the countries of origin of its main immigrant populations – Turkey, Morocco, Ghana, Suriname and the Dutch Antilles – and the capitals of new EU member states such as Budapest and Sofia.

Unique

In most places in the Netherlands and the world the concept of 'twinning cities' or 'sister cities' is limited mostly to the occasional courtesy visit to and fro. Rotterdam is active abroad, but mostly to promote its port. The Hague presents itself worldwide as the 'city of peace and justice', and Utrecht has a budget for citizens' development projects abroad.

"But only Amsterdam has a comprehensive approach targeting the countries of origin of its immigrant populations," says Erik-Jan Hertogs of the association of Dutch municipalities (VNG). "It is quite unique."

"We wanted to put a stop to the proliferation of town twinning agreements, and give some structure and verifiable content to our cooperation agreements," says Gerard

Pieters of Amsterdam's bureau for international relations.

With a budget of only 734,000 euros - 1 euro per inhabitant of Amsterdam - supplemented with state and European subsidies, Amsterdam realised money alone was not going to make the difference. "We don't have a lot of money to give away," says Pieters, "but what we do have is knowledge and expertise and a commitment to stay involved for the long term."

Housing in Suriname

A former director of Amsterdam's public transport company GVB went to Ghana to help start up a new government bus company there. Ghana was given a subsidy by the Dutch government for the project on the condition that the buses were bought from the Netherlands and a Dutch manager and technical director were hired. The company now has bus lines in thirteen cities in Ghana, and its staff has grown from 500 to almost 3,000.

These days 178 Amsterdam city employees are involved in projects in 13 countries. One such project is a housing programme in Suriname, a former Dutch colony in the Caribbean.

Pieters: "Amsterdam was already involved in building social housing in Suriname. But when the capital Paramaribo wanted to build a satellite city, Richelieu, it turned out they also needed their own development company. Suriname has a housing shortage of 30,000 to 40,000 units. So in 2006 a former Amsterdam alderman, Duco Stadig, drew up a plan for a development company, taking into account the particularities of Suriname, and Amsterdam's urban planning agency designed the urban development plan. Construction work began at the end of last year."

Earthquake aid

On the Caribbean islands of Curaçao and Sint Maarten, Amsterdam city officials have been teaching integrity courses to government officials and the

police. Sint Maarten, which like Curaçao is set to become an independent country within the Kingdom of the Netherlands, is given help with setting up an administration, modeled on what the boroughs in Amsterdam have. They are also taught what protocols to observe when foreign dignitaries visit.

In Izmit, Turkey, Amsterdam helped set up a social workshop after the 1999 earthquake. (Social workshops are protected work environments for the mentally handicapped.) "They didn't know the concept. With European subsidies and some help from the town of Deventer we were able to get a social workshop off the ground, and it is now



Amsterdam mayor Job Cohen personally oversees the city's development aid programme.

self-sufficient," says Pieters. Last week the city council was given an evaluation of the past seven years of Amsterdam's development programme. The new policy, which is directly

Photo Vincent Metzel
under the responsibility of mayor Job Cohen (Labour), has support across the political board, from the left-wing Socialist Party to the right-wing liberal party VVD. □

Central Govt yet to propose amendment to end elections

WILLEMSTAD--The Central Government still has to draft and submit a proposal to Parliament to amend the constitution to postpone or cancel parliamentary elections that are due in January 2010.

Representatives of the Central Government, the Netherlands, Curaçao and St. Maarten had decided in June that there was no need for parliamentary elections because the dismantling of the Netherlands Antilles had been moving swiftly and the new countries of Curaçao and St. Maarten and the public entities of Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba were taking shape.

Parties are to meet again in September to establish a firm date for the attainment of country status for St. Maarten and Curaçao, which is tentatively set for no later than October 2010.

The issue of parliamentary elections is also expected to be on the table in September. President of Parliament Pedro Atacho had said after the June meeting that the amendment needed to be submitted to Parliament as soon as possible, because changes to the constitution are not made quickly, although in this case he didn't foresee much of a long delay.

Constitutional Affairs Minister Roland Duncan (NA) said it was not a difficult amendment to draft. "The legal people know what to do, but there needs to be the political will to get it done." He firmly believes no parliamentary elections are necessary.

Elections for the 22-seat Parliament, based on the constitution, should be held no later than January. The new Parliament should be in place by March 2010.

A parliament with waning or no power is not

acceptable. This legislative branch should disappear altogether to allow Curaçao and St. Maarten to get moving with setting up their parliaments, Duncan told this newspaper from Grenada on Wednesday. The minister is on a working visit to the "Spice Island."

This view is shared by St. Maarten's Constitutional Affairs Commissioner William Marlin. He sees no need for a parliamentary election and wants the focus to be on the dismantling of the Netherlands Antilles so the setting up of country St. Maarten can be accelerated. "St. Maarten's position has not changed [about the parliamentary elections]," he said.

Duncan further stated that any talk about "hybrid elections" should not be tolerated under the guise of democracy or to appease opposition parties.

By hybrid elections, Duncan meant recent options that were suggested by a committee comprising representatives of the Central Government, the Netherlands, St. Maarten and Curaçao. The options were to hold elections as required in January, have parliamentary and Island Council elections (due in 2011) together, or postpone parliamentary elections and bring up the date of Island Council elections.

The minister said the focus should be on building up the new countries and the Dutch public entities. "Definitely, St. Maarten's position is to get country status and not to have an election halfway or in some form. It's like a baby being born. We can make it wait until we are ready or when we decide it should be born. The same with elections: there is no hold-back of democracy if no Antillean parliament is elected."

Stocks slip after jobless claims report

By SARA LEPRO and TIM PARADIS,

AP Business Writers

NEW YORK — Investors shuffled through the final day of trading before the government's July employment report.

The Dow Jones industrial average lost 25 points and other major indexes suffered moderate slides Thursday as worries about the Labor Department's report dominated trading for a third day. A stream of disappointing July sales numbers from major retailers added to Wall Street's uneasy mood.

A recovery in the job market is crucial to the economy's ability to pull itself from the longest recession since World War II. Unemployment often keeps rising after a recovery begins, but investors need to see the pace of job losses slowing before they'll continue the rally that began in March.

Even with the worries about jobs, the market's slowdown this week isn't surprising. Analysts have been calling for a time-out because the Dow has surged 13.6 percent in just four weeks on hopes the economy is strengthening.

Still, without some improvement in prospects for employment, investors are likely to get more of the disappointing reports that retailers delivered Thursday. Many of the nation's biggest chains posted disappointing sales for July as consumers spent gingerly because of worries about jobs.

"The consumer isn't dead, but he's injured," said Stephen Wood, chief market strategist at Russell Investments.

A weekly unemployment report offered investors only some encouragement ahead of Friday's numbers. The government said new claims for unemployment benefits fell to 550,000 last week, from a revised 588,000 the previous week. Economists had been looking for 580,000 new claims.

There also was sobering news: The number of people continuing to claim benefits rose by 69,000 to 6.3 million

after dropping for three straight weeks.

The weekly jobs figures and the retailers' reports have investors concerned that consumers don't feel confident enough to give the economy a strong recovery. Consumer spending accounts for more than two-thirds of U.S. economic activity.

Analysts expect the number of job losses for July to slow to 320,000 from 467,000 in June, according to Thomson Reuters. The jobless rate is expected to tick up to 9.6 percent from 9.5 percent. The report is due at 8:30 a.m. Eastern. Ahead of the numbers, the Dow fell 24.71, or 0.3 percent, to 9,256.26. The Standard & Poor's 500 index lost 5.64, or 0.6 percent, to 997.08, its first finish below 1,000 since Friday. The Nasdaq composite index fell 19.89, or 1 percent, to 1,973.16.

About three stocks fell for every two that rose on the New York Stock Exchange where consolidated volume came to 6.8 billion shares compared with 7.7 billion traded Wednesday.

Despite the growing caution in the market, analysts have been encouraged by the orderliness of the pullback, noting that stocks have shown strength in their ability to hold on to most of their gains rather than selling off sharply.

"We're not seeing panic selling," said Bill Groeneveld, president and head trader for vFinance Investments. "We always like to see some reassessment of where we're at."

A modest drop in stocks on Wednesday followed minimal gains on Tuesday. Those moves came after a surge on Monday that nudged the S&P 500 index above 1,000 for the first time since November.

The market soared last month on signs of improvement in industries such as housing and manufacturing, but worries over rising unemployment and still-sagging consumer spending have halted the market's rise.

"You're beginning to get a mixed bag of data," said Russell Investments' Wood.

"I think that creates probably more lumpy returns in the market. It's not as clear-cut as when we were in a nosedive, but it's also far from clear that there is going to be a brisk recovery in the near future."

American Express Co. rose after it said the rate of losses on credit card loans is slowing. The stock rose 95 cents, or 3.1 percent, to \$31.31.

Retailers were mixed. TJX Cos., operator of the T.J. Maxx and Marshalls chains, fell \$1.45, or 4 percent, to \$34.84, while Limited Brands Inc. jumped \$1.65, or 13 percent, to \$14.39. □



Traders work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, August 3, 2009.

REUTERS/Brendan McDermid



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FILE-This July 27, 2009 file photo shows director and writer Nora Ephron arrives at the premiere of 'Julie and Julia' in Los Angeles. Ephron sums up her entire life in terms of food: 'I think that all of life is what you ate, what you wish you'd eaten, or how glad you are you ate it, and what you're going to eat next.'

(AP Photo/Matt Sayles, File)

Nora Ephron thinks about food all the time

By MICHAEL WEINFELD, Associated Press Writer
WASHINGTON — Nora Ephron says she thinks about food all the time.

"This morning, all I've been thinking about is what I should have ordered last night. I should have ordered the pasta Bolognese, but I didn't. I went for a steak. It was a very good steak, but in the end, I should have tried the pasta."

Ephron sums up her entire life in terms of food: "I think that all of life is what you ate, what you wish you'd eaten, or how glad you are you ate it, and what you're going to eat next."

It's no wonder that the 68-year-old Ephron felt at home directing "Julie & Julia," which she adapted from two best-selling memoirs: Julie Powell's "Julie & Julia" and "My Life in France," by Julia Child with Alex Prud'homme. It stars Meryl Streep as Child and Amy Adams as Powell, who decides to spend a year cooking all 524 recipes in Child's "Mastering the Art of French Cooking" and blog about it.

Ephron told AP Radio she's an avid cook herself and has even compiled a booklet of her own recipes. "There's nothing ... that takes very long."

Nor does she like recipes that dirty too many dishes. □

Steven Tyler bleeding, holding shoulder after fall



File - Vocalist Steven Tyler of the rock band Aerosmith performs at the Verizon Wireless Amphitheatre in this June 10, 2009 file photo taken in Maryland Heights, Mo. Tyler fell off the stage while performing the song 'Love In an Elevator' in Sturgis South Dakota Wednesday Aug. 5, 2009. Tyler was helped backstage after the fall and was taken to the hospital after being evaluated by medical personnel. This was the first time Aerosmith had performed in Sturgis, but it was Tyler's second appearance at the rally.

(AP Photo/Jeff Roberson, File)

By CARSON WALKER, Associated Press Writer
STURGIS, S.D. — Aerosmith's Steven Tyler suffered head, neck and shoulder injuries in a tumble from the stage at a South Dakota show, a concert spokesman said Thursday, and the audience thought it was part of his hipshaking act until he didn't get up. Tyler, 61, fell while entertaining the crowd by dancing around as the sound crew replaced a fuse that blew during the song "Love in an Elevator," said Mike Sanborn, spokesman for the Buffalo Chip Campground, which hosted the Wednesday night concert. An amateur video showed him spinning around before falling off the stage.

A concertgoer said Tyler's head was bleeding and he was holding his shoulder after the fall, but it wasn't immediately clear how seriously he was hurt. The frontman was airlifted to Rapid City Regional Hospital, Sanborn said, the only major hospital in western South Dakota. A hospital spokeswoman would not confirm whether Tyler was there, and a representative for Aerosmith's publicity firm said the company was

gathering information about the accident.

The band's next concert, which was scheduled for Friday in Winnipeg, Manitoba, was postponed. On June 28, Tyler hurt his leg at a concert in Uncasville, Conn. and the band had to postpone seven shows in July.

Tyler, whose performances often include swaying and grinding on microphone stands adorned with scarves, was dancing on a catwalk Wednesday night that was connected to the main stage.

"He does a lot of dancing on the stage and he does a lot of stuff with his mike stand. He put his stand down and twirled around and stepped backwards off the stage," Sanborn said.

Many in the crowd were surprised and thought it was part of the act, said Jessica Kokesh, a University of South Dakota journalism student who covered the concert for the Rapid City Journal.

"We thought maybe he stage-dived into the crowd, but he didn't get back up," Kokesh said. "I thought he was falling back to crowd surf."

Tyler landed on a couple of fans, Sanborn said, and

security rushed to help him. The crowd cheered when Tyler got up.

"There was like a big sigh, a collective 'Whoa' from everybody," said Chuck Baker, 53, of Denver, who was about 20 rows from the stage when Tyler fell.

The rocker was taken backstage, where a physician attended to him. Later, guitarist Joe Perry told the audience the show would not go on.

"It was an unfortunate end to an extraordinary evening," Sanborn said.

Backstage, Jake Cohen was in the VIP area and didn't see the fall, but said he saw Tyler afterward.

"When they took him out, he was bleeding from his head and holding his shoulder," said Cohen, a salesman for Tyler's Dirco Motorcycles line.

Tyler, known for hits such as "Walk This Way" and "Dream On," attended Sturgis last year to promote his motorcycle line and was back this year to do that again and play at Buffalo Chip.

He was known for heavy drug and alcohol abuse in the 1970s and early 1980s. Every member of the blues-rock five-piece went to rehab in the mid-1980s, and the group staged an improbable comeback with the MTV generation. They were also inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

The Grammy-winning group was scheduled to play its next five shows in Canada. According to a Ticketmaster Web site and the band's Twitter page, the first of those shows was postponed and there were no further details.

An official with Commonwealth Stadium in Edmonton, where the band is supposed to play Tuesday, said she hadn't heard anything about a possible cancellation there. □



FILE - This 1984 file photo shows director John Hughes. Hughes is the man who wrote 'National Lampoon's Vacation,' 'Mr. Mom' and 'National Lampoon's European Vacation.' He also wrote and directed '16 Candles,' 'The Breakfast Club,' and 'Weird Science.' Hughes, who was 59, died in New York on Thursday.

(AP Photo)

'80s teen flick director John Hughes dies in NYC

NEW YORK — Writer-director John Hughes, Hollywood's youth impresario of the 1980s and '90s who captured and cornered the teen and preteen market with such favorites as "Home Alone," "The Breakfast Club" and "Ferris Bueller's Day Off," died Thursday, a spokeswoman said. He was 59.

Hughes died of a heart attack during a morning walk in Manhattan, Michelle Bega said. He was in New York to visit family.

A native of Lansing, Mich., who later moved to suburban Chicago and set much of his work there, Hughes rose from ad writer to comedy writer to silver screen champ with his affectionate and idealized portraits of teens, whether the romantic and sexual insecurity of "Sixteen Candles," or the J.D. Salinger-esque rebellion against conformity in "The Breakfast Club."

Hughes' ensemble comedies helped make stars out of Molly Ringwald, Anthony Michael Hall, Ally Sheedy and many other young performers. □



FILE - In this April 27, 2009 file photo, Cameron Douglas, son of Michael Douglas, arrives at the premiere of the film 'Ghosts of Girlfriends Past' in Los Angeles.

(AP Photo/Chris Pizzello, File)

NYC prosecutors: Michael Douglas' son dealt meth

By TOM HAYS,
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — Michael Douglas' son traveled coast to coast dealing large quantities of methamphetamine before his arrest last month, according to a criminal complaint made public Thursday.

The complaint in federal court in Manhattan alleges that Cameron Douglas was paid tens of thousands of dollars trafficking the drug — referred to in transactions by the code words “pastry” or “bath salts” — since 2006. Cash and drugs were routinely exchanged through shippers like FedEx, the court papers said. The 30-year-old son of the Oscar-winning actor was arrested July 28 at the trendy Hotel Gansevoort in Manhattan. His attorney, Nicholas DeFeis, declined to comment Thursday. Federal authorities have refused to discuss whether Cameron Douglas remains behind bars or any other aspect of the case. The complaint drawn up by a Drug Enforcement Administration agent details allegations based on information provided by three unnamed crystal meth users and dealers.

The users — including someone who once worked for Cameron Douglas — have pleaded guilty and agreed to cooperate with the investigation.

The complaint said that in one deal in 2006, a cooperator shipped cash under a fake name to Douglas at a California hotel. A few days later, it said, Douglas delivered a pound of methamphetamine to the cooperator at a Manhattan hotel.

In 2007, according to another cooperator, Douglas was paid \$48,000 at a Manhattan apartment. The cooperator later received a pound of crystal meth through FedEx from Santa Barbara, Calif., the complaint said.

In June and July, negotiations for more drugs were secretly recorded on wiretaps of cell phones and a cooperator's hotel room in Manhattan, the complaint said.

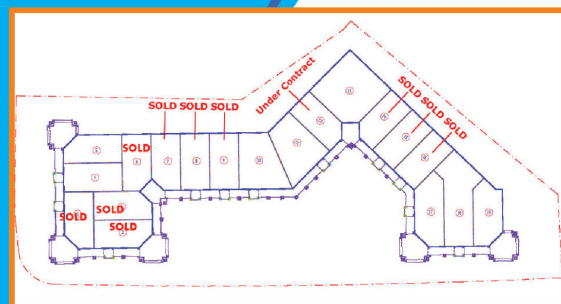
Cameron Douglas, in one recording at the hotel, “acknowledged his prior history selling crystal meth” and “indicated that he continued to sell crystal meth.” □

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HEALTH

Aruba TODAY

Ouch! Early flu shot season comes with 3 jabs



A man covers his mouth as people wait to register themselves for swine flu virus test at Ram Manohar Lohia hospital, in New Delhi, India, Thursday, Aug. 6, 2009. The western Indian city Pune reported the country's first swine flu fatality late Monday. India has confirmed 574 swine flu cases, according to the Health Ministry.

By MIKE STOBBE,
AP Medical Writer

ATLANTA — Get ready to roll up your sleeve three times for flu shots this fall. That's right, three times. This year's flu season is shaping up to be a very different one. Most people will need one shot for the regular seasonal flu and probably two others to protect against the new swine flu.

Experts suggest you get that first shot as early as this month — if you can find it.

"We'd like to get to Job 1 and get most of it done," said Dr. William Schaffner, a Vanderbilt University flu expert, referring to seasonal flu vaccinations.

"Get it done before we start to tackle Job 2," the more complex task of swine flu vaccinations, he added.

The five vaccine manufacturers that supply the United States are finishing up production of seasonal flu vaccine earlier than usual. Health officials say they expect about half of the more than 120 million doses of seasonal vaccine to be available by the end of this month. Most of the rest are due out by the end of September. Some manufacturers report that distributors are quickly buying up supplies.

(AP Photo/Manish Swarup)

Those five companies — including one that makes a nasal spray version of flu vaccine — are the same ones making the new swine flu vaccine. They are on track to start delivering the first batches of that in September, but the bulk of it isn't expected until late October or November, health officials say.

That's sparked questions about how all this is going to work. Officials want to get as many people as possible vaccinated against both forms of flu, but a lot of that depends on consumers and how many trips they'll be willing to make to get shots.

Why can't you get one shot for all — or maybe just two? The reasons have to do with logistics and caution.

Scientists believe the swine flu vaccine will be most effective if given in two doses, about three weeks apart, although testing is still under way to check that.

Combining swine flu and seasonal flu in one shot is theoretically possible, but it was too late to try it this year. Decisions were made last winter about what flu strains to use in this year's seasonal vaccine, and production was too far along by the time

swine flu hit in April to alter the formula.

So seasonal flu and swine flu will have to be given as separate doses, even if it's during the same appointment. But it's not a matter of just giving both to whoever comes in. Supplies are expected to be limited, so the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has two different lists for who should be first to get the seasonal flu shot and who should be first to get the swine flu shot.

For the regular flu vaccine, elderly people, health care workers and pregnant women are among the priority groups. For the swine flu vaccine, health care workers and pregnant women are on the list but not older people, who seem to have some immunity to swine flu.

If all the flu shots were given at about the same time, it could mean a mash of people, some of whom should be among the first to get one shot and not the other.

"I think it's safe to say we expect some confusion," said Kristine Sheedy, a CDC communications specialist. Then, there are safety questions.

Health officials are haunted by the swine flu vaccine campaign in 1976, which was stopped after unexpectedly high numbers of patients suffered a paralyzing condition called Guillain-Barre Syndrome. While it's not clear the vaccine was to blame, health officials want to carefully monitor people who get the new swine flu vaccine for any problems. Scientists are just beginning to test the safety and effectiveness of the new swine flu vaccine, work that is expected to take months. If the seasonal flu and swine flu vaccines were given at the same sitting and some people developed health problems, it would be hard to single out which vaccine caused the problem, or whether it was the combination of them.

"How you're going to separate

that out — that's a doozyer," said Dr. Samuel Katz, a Duke University vaccines expert, who was a developer of the measles vaccine.

So the government is looking at three shots, preferably over three visits.

That's daunting. Over the years, the public hasn't been great about getting even one flu shot: Just one in three U.S. adults got flu shots last year, CDC data indicate.

"To come two or three times? That's expecting a lot, of public response," said Katz. Health officials traditionally kick off an autumn vaccine campaign against seasonal flu in late September or October with a news conference in Washington D.C. But this year, the news conference — which features the CDC director — has been moved up to Sept. 10.

Unofficially, the push for seasonal vaccinations begins even sooner, some health officials said. □

Certain drugs may increase risk of falling

NEW YORK — In elderly men and women, certain medications can increase the risk of falling, new research shows.

Findings from a 4-year study conducted in France suggest the risk of falling is 1.4 times greater among elderly men and women taking a long-acting benzodiazepine, compared with age-matched men and women not using this type of anti-anxiety medication.

Dr. Annick Alperovitch, at INSERM in Paris, and colleagues also found a moderately increased risk of falling among elderly men and women who regularly used mood- and behavior-altering "psychotropic" medications. Their findings, reported in the journal BMC Geriatrics, identified similar risk among elderly individuals reporting regular use of tranquilizers, muscle relaxants and anti-spasmodics, and some antihistamines that block nerve responses (so-called "anticholinergics").

The researchers assessed the association between the use of potentially inappropriate medications and the risk of falls in 6343 community-living men and women who

were nearly 74 years old on average.

They defined "inappropriate medication" as drugs likely to have a greater effect on elderly individuals than on their younger counterparts, as well as medications (taken singly or with other drugs) with side effects (dizziness and drowsiness) potentially associated with increased risk for falling.

Overall, about 30 percent of study patients reported use of drugs with these qualities and during the course of the study, 22 percent of them had fallen 2 or more times.

"Use of inappropriate medications increased the risk of falls," they report, and use of long-acting benzodiazepines "was responsible for the main part of this increase."

Unlike regular and occasional users of long-acting benzodiazepines, men and women using short- or intermediate-acting benzodiazepines did not have an increased occurrence of falls.

Therefore, the investigators say the use of short- or intermediate-acting benzodiazepines, over long-acting anti-anxiety medications, are preferable in elderly patients. □



-In this Monday, July 13, 2009 file photo, Supreme Court nominee Sonia Sotomayor is sworn in on Capitol Hill in Washington, during her confirmation hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee. The Senate confirmed Sonia Sotomayor Thursday as the first Hispanic justice on the Supreme Court. The vote was 68-31 for Sotomayor, President Barack Obama's first high court nominee. She becomes the 111th justice and just the third woman to serve.

Associated Press

Sotomayor to be first Hispanic on high court

JULIE HIRSCHFELD DAVIS

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP)— Sonia Sotomayor won confirmation Thursday as the first Hispanic U.S. Supreme Court justice in a Senate vote that capped a summer-long debate heavy with ethnic politics.

Sotomayor, President Barack Obama's first Supreme Court nominee, will be sworn in Saturday as the court's 111th justice, third woman and first nominee by a Democrat in 15 years.

The Senate vote was 68-31.

The 55-year-old daughter of Puerto Rican parents was raised in a New York public housing project and educated in elite universities before rising to the highest legal echelons, spending the past 17 years as a federal judge.

A majority of Republicans lined up against her, arguing she would bring personal bias and a liberal agenda to the bench. But Democrats praised Sotomayor as an extraordinarily qualified mainstream moderate and touted her elevation to the court as a milestone in the journey toward greater equality in the U.S. and a reaffirmation of the American dream.

Obama, the first black U.S. president, praised the Senate's vote as "breaking another barrier and moving us yet another step closer to a more perfect union." Minutes before the vote, Sen.

Robert Menendez, the Senate's lone Hispanic Democrat, said, "History awaits, and so does an anxious Hispanic community in this country."

"When she places her hand on the Bible and takes the oath of office, the new portrait of the justices of the Supreme Court will clearly reflect who we are as a nation, what we stand for as a fair, just and hopeful people."

The Senate chamber was heavy with drama as senators took the rare step of assembling at their desks for the vote, rising from their seats to call out "aye" or "nay." The longest-serving senator, 91-year-old Robert Byrd who has been in frail health following a long hospitalization, was brought in in a wheelchair to vote in Sotomayor's favor. Edward Kennedy, a Democrat suffering from brain cancer, was the only senator absent.

Sotomayor replaces retiring Justice David Souter, a liberal named by a Republican president, and she is not expected to alter the court's ideological split. Still, Republicans and Democrats were deeply at odds over confirming Sotomayor, and the battle over her nomination highlighted profound philosophical disagreements that will shape future fights over the court's makeup as Obama looks to another likely vacancy — perhaps more than one — while he's in the White House.

Continued on Next Page

Ex-Edwards mistress at court amid campaign probe



Rielle Hunter, second from right, is escorted into the Terry Sanford Federal Building and Courthouse in Raleigh, N.C., Thursday, Aug. 6, 2009. Former Sen. John Edwards had an extramarital affair with Hunter that he says ended in 2006.

Associated Press

ALYSIA PATTERSON

Associated Press Writer

RALEIGH, North Carolina (AP) — The ex-mistress of John Edwards spent much of Thursday in a federal courthouse where a grand jury was meeting, at a time when federal investigators are examining the two-time presidential candidate's finances. Rielle Hunter walked into the building in the morning through a back entrance, holding a young child. She left with the child about nine hours later.

Continued on Page B3



U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, during a press conference at the US Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya, Thursday, Aug. 6 2009, where the Secretary met with the Somalia president Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed. Clinton on Thursday pledged continued American support for Somalia's weak interim government as it struggles against Islamist extremists believed linked to al-Qaida.

Associated Press

Clinton vows new U.S. support for Somalia

MATTHEW LEE

Associated Press Writer

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton on Thursday pledged to "expand and extend" American support for Somalia's weak interim government as it struggles against Islamist extremists believed linked to al-Qaid.

Continued on Page B8



Sonia Sotomayor waves as she leaves Manhattan Federal Court, Thursday, Aug. 6, 2009 in New York. Sotomayor won confirmation Thursday as the nation's first Hispanic Supreme Court justice, a history-making Senate vote that capped a summer-long debate heavy with ethnic politics and hints of high court fights to come.

Associated Press

SOTOMAYOR

Continued from Page B1

The Republicans decried Obama's call for "empathy" in a justice, painting Sotomayor as the embodiment of an inappropriate standard that would let a judge bring her personal whims and prejudices to the bench. Her writings and speeches

"reflect a belief not just that impartiality is not possible, but that it's not even worth the effort," said Sen. Mitch McConnell, the Republican minority leader. "In Judge Sotomayor's court, groups that didn't make the cut of preferred groups often found that they ended up on the short end of the empathy standard."

Democrats, for their part, hailed the vote as a breakthrough achievement for the country, on par with enactment of civil rights laws. They warned Republicans they risked a backlash from Hispanic voters in the short term and an enduring black mark on their party in history books by opposing Sotomayor's confirmation.

"Those who oppose her for fear of her unique life experience do no justice to her or our nation. Their names will be listed in our nation's annals of elected officials one step behind America's historic march forward," said Sen. Dick Durbin of Illinois, the No. 2 Democrat.

A number of Republican senators argued Sotomayor's speeches and record made her unacceptable. They pointed to rulings in which they said she showed disregard for gun rights, property rights and job discrimination claims by white employees. And they repeatedly cited comments she had made about the role

that a judge's background and perspective can play, especially a 2001 speech in which she said she hoped a "wise Latina" judge would usually make better decisions than a white man.

"She has bluntly advocated a judicial philosophy where judges ground their decisions not in the objective rule of law, but in the subjective realm of personal 'opinions, sympathies and prejudices,'" said Sen. Jeff Sessions, the top Republican on the Judiciary Committee.

Republicans have been particularly critical of Sotomayor's position on the U.S. Constitution's Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms. She was part of a federal appeals court panel in New York that ruled this year that the amendment limits only the federal government — not states — a decision in keeping with previous Supreme Court precedent. Gun rights supporters said her panel should not have called the issue "settled law," and

they criticized her for refusing during her confirmation hearings to go beyond what the high court has said and declare that the Second Amendment applies to the states.

The National Rifle Association, a gun rights advocacy group, strongly opposed her and threatened to downgrade its ratings of any senator who voted to confirm Sotomayor. The warning made little impact on Democrats, but it may have influenced some Republicans who were initially considered possible supporters but have since announced their opposition, citing gun rights as a key reason.

In the final tally, nine Republicans joined majority Democrats and the Senate's two independents to support Sotomayor's confirmation. They included the Senate's few Republican moderates and its lone Hispanic Republican, retiring Sen. Mel Martinez, as well as conservative southern Sens. Lindsey Graham and Lamar Alexander, the party's third-ranking leader. □




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First moves toward immigration detention makeover

SUZANNE GAMBOA

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration's plan to stop holding immigrant families at a former central Texas prison was cheered Thursday by the immigrants' supporters and some in Congress as a needed change in inhumane and sometimes deadly detentions. Supporters of tougher immigration enforcement, however, questioned whether the administration was returning to policies that allow immigrants to disappear. And even those who liked the changes said the government needs to go further and write detention standards into law. John Morton, Immigration and Customs Enforcement director, told reporters Thursday that detentions of families at the T. Don Hutto Residential Center in Taylor, Texas, which has held 400 people, would end immediately.

Some families would go to a facility in Pennsylvania, but it has only 85 beds and Morton said other alternatives would be considered. These could

include community homes, often run by nonprofit or religious groups, where the immigrants can come and go, but federal officials can still keep track of them.

The decision was among several first steps that Morton said eventually would "lead to ... creation of a system that is marked by and driven by the civil detention philosophy." He said these changes can be made while still detaining immigrants who are criminals or dangerous. "We are going to continue to detain on a large scale," he said. "This is about how we detain." Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said more changes are coming in what she called a major overhaul that DHS officials acknowledge will take years. "There are a number of issues that need to be corrected," Napolitano said. "If people are going to be held ... we have an obligation that they be held safely in a clean, healthy environment."

At the Texas facility, families were locked in cells equipped with bunk beds and a toilet. Immigration advocates

considered the site a symbol of inhumanity in the country's immigration detention. A lawsuit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union forced changes to the facility, such as allowing families to have more time to eat and removing concertina wire that surrounded the facility.

ACLU of Texas Legal Director Lisa Graybill said her group is "overjoyed" the administration recognized holding children in the facility is "inhumane and un-American." But she said the "victory does not eclipse" the fact the federal government spends hundreds of millions of dollars to detain immigrants when less expensive alternatives are available. The annual cost of detaining immigrants has reached \$1.7 billion, according to ICE. Other advocates said Congress must write immigration detention standards into law to make them enforceable.

The number of detained immigrants has risen sharply in recent years and the detention system has not kept pace in ensuring humane conditions, proper medical treatment,

paid another \$14,086 on April 1, 2007.

Edwards, a Democratic senator from 1998 until his vice presidential bid in 2004, acknowledged in May that federal investigators are looking into how he used campaign funds. Grand jury proceedings are secret, and

the U.S. attorney's office in Raleigh, North Carolina, has declined to confirm or deny an investigation.

Young hasn't spoken publicly since saying he was the father in 2007 and has repeatedly ignored reporter requests for interviews. □

EX EDWARDS

Continued from Page B1

Neither Hunter nor her attorney, Michael Critchley, responded to reporters' questions.

Edwards adamantly denied during a confessional interview with ABC News last summer that he had fathered a child with Hunter, and he welcomed a paternity test. His wife, Elizabeth, has said while promoting her book that she doesn't know if her husband is the father.

Former Edwards aide Andrew Young, who made a similar courthouse visit while the grand jury was sitting last month, said in 2007 he was the child's father. Hunter said around the same time that Young was the father and the birth certificate does not list a father's name.

Edwards has admitted to an affair with Hunter that he says ended in 2006. That year, Edwards' political action committee paid Hunter's video production firm \$100,000 for work. Then the committee



Marcos Antonio Marquez, 48, and his son, Marcos Marquez Solano, 10, are shown at Casa Marianella, an immigrant shelter, Thursday, Aug. 6, 2009, in Austin, Texas. They are immigrants from El Salvador who have been granted amnesty. They once were held for eight months at a Central Texas detention center where immigration officials announced Thursday, Aug. 6, 2009 that they would no longer be housing families. They once stayed six months at Casa Marianella, and now live in Austin. He returned to the shelter to do repair work.

Associated Press

or basic legal protections, Lieberman said.

Marcos Marquez, a Salvadoran who took trains and hitchhiked his way through Central America, spent eight months in Hutto. Marquez said it was hard to hear children at the detention center asking to go to the store, although the conditions were the best he'd ever lived in. "The mom would say, 'No, we're not allowed to leave' and the kids would say, 'We're in jail aren't we, Mom?'" Marquez said. "That was really heartbreaking, to hear the kids, because the kids would then cry, then the moms

would cry."

He added his 10-year-old son, also Marcos, didn't understand why they were in jail but played video games, made friends, got classroom instruction and was never forcibly separated from his father at the center.

The detention system expanded after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks as the Bush administration stepped up immigration enforcement and ended a policy of releasing illegal immigrants into the country to await deportation hearings — a practice known as "catch and release." □

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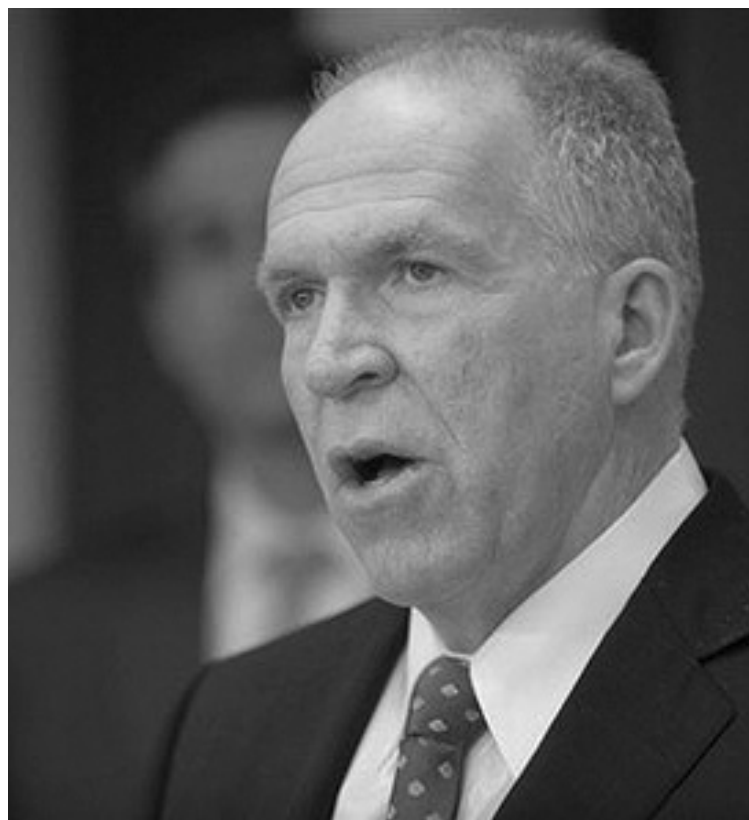
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White House has dual strategy to defeat terrorism



John Brennan, Assistant to the President for Homeland Security, seen here in April 2009, said Al-Qaeda remains a “persistent and evolving threat” to the United States and is being aggressively targeted by the new administration.

Photo by AFP

LOLITA C. BALDOR

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Obama administration has mapped out a dual approach to defeating terrorism, fusing U.S. military strikes against insurgents with a commitment to pump economic development, political aid and training into countries that are considered safe havens for militant groups.

John Brennan, a top White House adviser, said Thursday that the U.S. must harness its economic power to help nations increase their security and dissuade their citizens from turning to violence. He cited Somalia as an example. “The most effective long-term strategy for safeguarding the American people is one that promotes a future where a young man or woman never even considers joining an extremist group in the first

place; where they reject out of hand the idea of picking up that gun or strapping on that suicide vest,” said Brennan, President Barack Obama’s assistant for homeland security and counterterrorism.

Brennan’s speech covered familiar ground, echoing calls by other senior leaders, including Defense Secretary Robert Gates, for the U.S. government to use more “soft power” to defeat terrorism. Since November 2007, Gates has been arguing that the military alone cannot solve the problem.

But Brennan’s remarks Thursday put greater detail and emphasis on a program that focuses on the near-term challenge of fighting al-Qaida, and the longer-term effort to counter violent extremism. Speaking at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, Brennan offered no details on how much the cash-strapped administration will be willing to pour into known terror havens, which range from war-ravaged Afghanistan to poverty-stricken Somalia and Yemen. Those nations have pleaded for millions more dollars in financial aid, along with funds for trucks, helicopters, and other equipment.

His comments underscored assertions — by Obama and other Cabinet members — that winning the war of words is a key element to defeating terrorism. Early on, Obama dropped the use of the oft-heard Bush administration catch phrase “global war on terror,” saying that the U.S. must be careful not to suggest that it is at war with Muslims. And in June Obama delivered a much-anticipated speech in Cairo, reaching out to the Muslim world.

On Thursday, Brennan also argued that the term “global war” could imply that the U.S. is at war with the rest of the world, and it reinforces the idea that al-Qaida is more powerful and far-reaching than it is. Outlining five key elements of the new approach, Brennan said the U.S. will meld its fight against terrorists into a broader engagement with countries around the

world, not just those gripped by extremists.

In addition to efforts to speak more carefully about terrorism, he said there will be a greater understanding that while poverty does not cause violence, people who have no hope for a job are often more susceptible to extremist ideologies.

Also, Brennan said the U.S. must help other countries bolster their security and governance in order to meet the needs of their people. And finally the White House will use all elements of American power to meet those goals, he said.

Pointing to Somalia, which has become a growing base for al-Qaida terrorists compounded by tribal warfare and piracy, Brennan said the U.S. needs a more comprehensive policy for the Horn of Africa.

Already, he said, U.S. officials are sharing intelligence with nations in East Africa and the Trans-Sahel region (on the southern fringe of the Sahara) and building their security forces.

But there also must be a broader strategy to give Somalis an alternative to joining al-Shabab, which has ties to al-Qaida, he said.

In other comments, Brennan said the administration is “doing everything possible” to close the Guantanamo Bay detention facility by next January, as promised by Obama.

He stopped short of saying the White House will meet that goal, adding that Congress “can either help or hinder our efforts.”

Congress has blocked all funding for the transfer of any Guantanamo detainees into the United States for the 2009 fiscal year ending Sept. 30. There has been no agreement yet on funding in the 2010 fiscal year budget.

Congress also passed a law in June that would allow Guantanamo detainees to be transferred to the U.S. for prosecution only after lawmakers have had two months to read a White House report on how it plans to shut the facility and disperse the inmates.

Senators block Obama nominees, protest Gitmo

By LOLITA C. BALDOR

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Kansas’ two U.S. senators are blocking 10 of President Barack Obama’s nominees for senior administration posts at the Pentagon and Justice Department in protest over a proposal to house Guantanamo detainees at the Fort Leavenworth prison. The list of blocked nominees includes a fellow Republican member of Congress — Obama’s pick for Army secretary, Rep. John McHugh of New York.

Sens. Sam Brownback and Pat Roberts, both R-Kan., said Thursday that they are prepared to block the appointments until they get answers from the White House about the proposal. And they said they want Leavenworth taken off the list of potential relocation spots.

The senators were reacting to reports that the administration is eyeing the U.S. Disciplinary Barracks at Leavenworth and a soon-to-be-shuttered state maximum security prison in Michigan as possible places to establish a heavily guarded site to hold the 229 suspected al-Qaida, Taliban and foreign fighters now jailed at the Guantanamo Bay detention camp in Cuba.

Officials outlined the plans earlier this week on condition of anonymity because the options are under review, and the White

House has not confirmed the proposal.

The plan is the latest effort to comply with President Barack Obama’s order to close Guantanamo by Jan. 22, 2010.

Administration officials said the Leavenworth site is under consideration because it is already a hardened high-security facility that could be further protected by the surrounding military base.

Complaining that they’ve gotten no explanation from the White House about the plans, Brownback added, “if we’re not going to get any cooperation, we’re not going to give any cooperation. We’re going to hold these up until we get the answers that we need.”

Roberts said they believe that blocking the nominees was the only way they would get a response.

“The best answer for both of us, and we both agree, is that Leavenworth is off the table,” said Roberts.

Other nominations being blocked include Joseph Westphal, who is up for undersecretary of the Army, and former Texas State Rep. Juan Garcia as assistant secretary of the Navy.

Defense Department press secretary Geoff Morrell said he had no comment on the matter.

Virginia governor allows three in rape-slaying to be freed

By DENA POTTER and LARRY O'DELL

Associated Press Writers

RICHMOND, Va. — Three men convicted in the rape and slaying of a fellow sailor's wife more than a decade ago will walk free to the outrage of the victim's family — who blamed the decision on political pressure from novelist John Grisham — and the men's supporters, who say it's not enough and want them declared innocent.

Gov. Tim Kaine on Thursday granted conditional pardons to ex-sailors Derek Tice, Danial Williams and Joseph Dick Jr. They along another ex-sailor Eric Wilson were known as "The Norfolk Four" and convicted in the 1997 slaying of 18-year-old Michelle Moore-Bosko. Tice, Williams and Dick were sentenced

to life in prison but could all be released by Friday, said Williams' lawyer, Don Salzman.

Grisham, who has homes in Virginia and Mississippi and is famous for his legal thrillers, has said he believed all four are innocent and is writing a screenplay about their case. Since 2000, he has donated more than \$390,000 to Virginia Democrats, including \$175,000 to Kaine and his political action committee, according to the Virginia Public Access Project, a statewide tracker of campaign donations. Grisham also serves on the board of The Innocence Project, which fights to free wrongfully convicted inmates.

"Obviously, Mr. Grisham's wealth and influence are far more important to Governor Kaine's political aspirations

and public image than truth or justice," Carol Moore and her husband John said in an e-mailed statement.

Grisham did not immediately return calls for comment.

Meanwhile, attorneys for the men harshly criticized Kaine's decision, saying they would continue to fight for the convictions to be thrown out. The men's relatives were also dissatisfied. "We are overjoyed that we have a chance to get our sons back, but this is bittersweet," said Derek Tice's mother, Rachel Tice. "This has been an 11-year-plus ordeal for our families. Our sons, who are innocent, lost more than a decade of their lives and their convictions still hang over their heads."

Besides Grisham, 30 former FBI agents as well as some ex-prosecutors have backed

Liberian official meets with police about rape

AMANDA LEE MYERS

Associated Press Writer

PHOENIX (AP) — Liberia's deputy ambassador to the United States met with police detectives Thursday and toured the Phoenix facility where an 8-year-old rape victim from his country was treated.

Deputy Ambassador Edwin Sele and leaders of Arizona's Liberian community were at Childhelp, which aids young victims of crime, to see what experience the girl had there and learn about the services she's still getting, such as counseling.

Sele said he felt comforted after touring the facility that the girl received good treatment.

Police say four boys, all Liberian refugees ages 9 to 14, lured the girl to an empty storage shed July 16 with the promise of chewing gum then restrained and raped her.

Sele got a copy of a lengthy Phoenix police report about the case and said he would



Paul Penzone, from Childhelp USA, and Liberia's Deputy Ambassador to the US, Edwin Sele, answer reporters' questions at Childhelp in Phoenix, Thursday, Aug. 6, 2009. Sele toured the Phoenix facility where an 8-year-old rape victim from his country was treated. He also met with police detectives Thursday as part of his fact-finding mission into the case.

Associated Press

give it to Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, who asked Sele to visit Phoenix and report his findings to her. Sele is on a five-day visit to Phoenix to meet with prosecutors, childcare workers, police and family members of the boys and girl. He was expected to meet with at least some of the family

members later Thursday.

He said he wants to talk to the girl's father in particular to give him a chance to explain comments he made to police that he was ashamed of his daughter and didn't want her back — a contention later disputed by the family's pastor. □



Rachel Tice of Clayton, N.C., at podium, makes a statement in response to the conditional pardons which were granted by Virginia Gov. Tim Kaine to four US Navy men, one of whom is her son, Derek Tice, Thursday, Aug. 6, 2009 in Richmond, Va. The men were conditionally pardoned for a 1997 rape and murder. From left, Norman Williams and Rita Williams of Owosso, Mich., parents of Danial J. Williams; Des Hogan, who represents Derek Tice; Shawn Armbrust, of the Mid-Atlantic Innocence Project; Larry Tice husband of Rachel Tice; Rachel Tice, at podium; Pat Dick and Joseph Dick Sr. of Baltimore County, Md., parents of Joseph J. Dick; and Don Salzman, attorney for Daniel Williams.

Associated Press

the men, saying they are not guilty.

Moore-Bosko's parents charged that Kaine, who is chairman of the Democratic National Committee, bowed to political pressure.

"Let him walk in our shoes, let's see how he would feel," a sobbing Carol Moore told The Associated Press in a telephone interview from her Pittsburgh home. "This is nothing but political and John Grisham."

Kaine, who inherited the pardon requests from former Gov. Mark Warner, said he is the only official who has exhaustively reviewed all the cases and said he's "very comfortable" with his decision. The four men did

not conclusively prove their innocence, but there were "grave doubts about at least the level of their complicity in the crime," he said. Each confessed to the murder. After they were convicted, they claimed their confessions were coerced.

When released, the men will be subject to supervision by the state parole board, Kaine said.

"This was a horrible crime that their young daughter was the victim of, and they are entitled to feel however they want to feel and I wouldn't suggest anything about the way they should feel," Kaine said. "My heart really goes out to them like it has through this whole process." □

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Ex-president urges end to Colombia-Venezuela fight



Colombia's Former President Ernesto Samper, right, shakes hands with Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez upon his arrival to Miraflores Presidential Palace in Caracas, Venezuela, Thursday, Aug. 6, 2009.

Associated Press

FABIOLA SANCHEZ
Associated Press Writer
CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — A former Colombian president sought to ease tensions between Caracas and Bogota on Thursday,

but Venezuelan leader Hugo Chavez said relations will remain rocky if the neighboring nation gives U.S. troops access to its bases. Ernesto Samper, who was

Colombia's president in 1994-98, said he met with Chavez hoping to "open a door in Colombia's relations with Venezuela."

Chavez welcomed Samper's effort, but denied that the visitor was acting as a mediator in the conflict between the two South American nations.

It wasn't clear how the meeting was arranged. Samper's Liberal Party is in opposition to Colombian President Alvaro Uribe.

Venezuela's leftist president, who is a strong opponent of U.S. influence in Latin America, said tensions will continue unless Uribe reverses his decision to negotiate an agreement with Washington that would grant the U.S. military long-term leases on seven bases.

"The only way this situation

returns, let's say, to calm, is for Colombia to refuse to give its territory to the United States," Chavez told journalists at the presidential palace.

"An aggression against Venezuela is being planned," he charged, adding that "mediation isn't possible." Chavez pulled his ambassador from Bogota last week after Colombia complained that three Swedish anti-tank rocket launchers bought by Venezuela's military in 1988 wound up in a weapons cache seized last year from the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC.

He claims the conservative Uribe raised the issue of the bazooka-like weapons to portray Venezuela as a supporter of the FARC, which the U.S. lists as a terrorist organization, and

thereby justify the need for more U.S. soldiers on Colombian soil.

Chavez denies his government is aiding the FARC, and has said he believes the three rocket launchers seized by Colombia were stolen by another Colombian rebel group, the National Liberation Army, in 1995 during an attack on a Venezuelan border post.

Uribe's government says a bigger U.S. military presence is needed to help Colombia fight drug traffickers and the FARC, which uses millions of dollars in revenues from cocaine smuggling to fund its decades-long insurgency. Colombian officials deny that leasing the bases to the United States poses a threat to Venezuela, saying no more than 1,400 U.S. personnel would be in the country. □



SCHEDULE FOR WEEK OF AUGUST 6 - AUGUST 12

*matinee: everyday | late show: friday and saturday

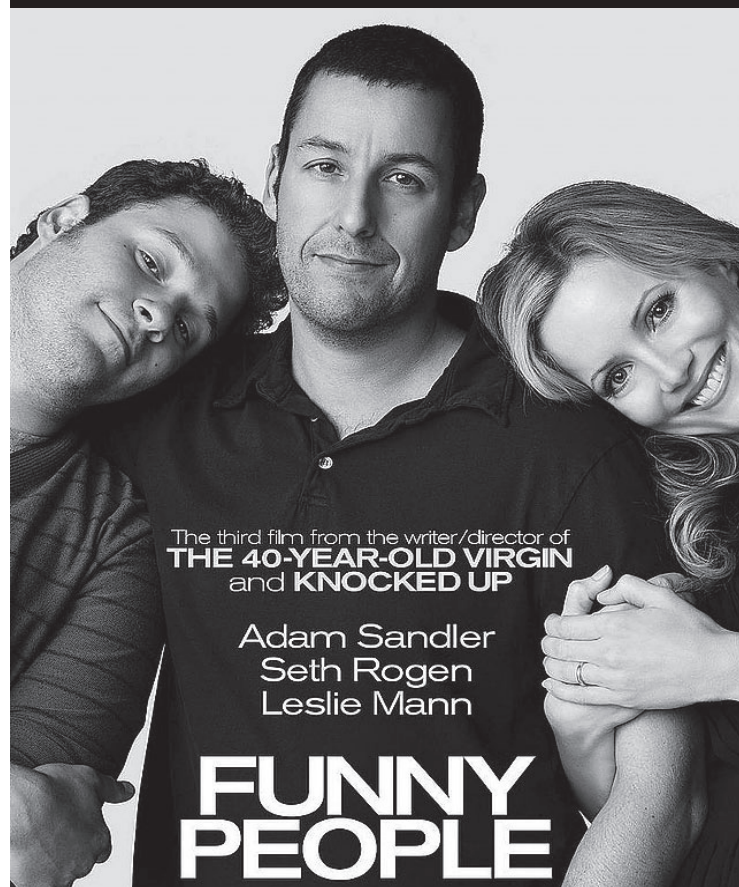
AT RENAISSANCE - ORANJESTAD

R	ORPHAN	daily: 6:15 matinee: 12:45	8:45 late show: 11:45	NEW
PG-13	G.I. JOE THE RISE OF THE COBRA	daily: 5:45 matinee: 12:30	8:30 late show: 11:00	NEW
PG-13	TRANSFORMER 2	daily: 4:30 matinee: 1:30	late show:	
R	THE HANGOVER	daily: 7:30 matinee:	10:00 late show: 12:15	
PG-13	YEAR ONE	daily: 8:00 matinee:	10:15 late show: 12:30	
PG	HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF-BLOOD PRINCE	daily: 5:15 matinee: 1:45	8:30 late show: 11:30	
PG	ICE AGE 3 DAWN OF THE DINOSAURS	daily: 4:00 matinee: 12:00	6:00 late show:	3D
PG	ALIENS IN THE ATTIC	daily: 5:00 matinee: 12:15	7:15 late show: 9:30 12:00	

AT PASEO HERENCIA

PG-13	JULIE AND JULIA	daily: 5:45 matinee: 12:15	8:30 late show: 11:00	NEW
R	FUNNY PEOPLE	daily: 6:00 matinee: 12:00	9:00 late show: 12:00	NEW
PG-13	THE PROPOSAL	daily: 9:30 matinee:	late show: 12:15	
PG	HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF-BLOOD PRINCE	daily: 4:30 matinee: 1:15	8:00 late show: 11:15	
R	THE HANGOVER	daily: 7:30 matinee:	9:45 late show: 12:30	
PG	G-FORCE	daily: 5:00 matinee: 12:45	7:15 late show:	3D
PG-13	TRANSFORMER 2	daily: 4:15 matinee: 1:00	late show:	
R	THE UGLY TRUTH	daily: 4:45 matinee: 12:30	7:00 late show: 9:15 11:30	

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Pakistan, U.S. probe report of Taliban chief's death

ISHTIAQ MAHSUD
ZARAR KHAN

Associated Press Writer

ISLAMABAD (AP)—U.S. and Pakistani authorities are investigating reports that Pakistani Taliban chief Baitullah Mehsud was killed in an American missile strike, officials from both countries said Friday. If confirmed, Mehsud's demise would be a major boost to Pakistani and U.S. efforts to eradicate the Taliban and al-Qaida.

Mehsud is believed responsible for dozens of suicide attacks, beheadings and target killings in Pakistan. He is allied with al-Qaida and has been suspected in the killing of former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

Pakistan views him as its top internal threat and has been preparing an offensive against him. The U.S. sees him as a danger to the war effort in Afghanistan, largely because of the threat he is believed to pose to nuclear-armed Pakistan. The missile strike hit the home of Mehsud's father-in-law in Pakistan's South Waziristan tribal region early Wednesday. Intelligence officials say Mehsud's second wife was among at least two people killed, and Mehsud associates have claimed he was not among the dead. Pakistan army spokesman Maj. Gen. Athar Abbas cautioned that the reports of Mehsud's death are still unconfirmed.

"We are receiving reports and probing," he said.

The U.S. government is also looking into the reports, according to a U.S. counterterrorism official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the investigation publicly.

The counterterrorism official indicated that the United States did not yet



In this photo taken Tuesday, Aug. 4, 2009, Pakistani villagers look at a house belonging to supporters of Pakistani Taliban leader Baitullah Mehsud which was destroyed by authorities in Dera Ismail Khan, Pakistan.

Associated Press

have physical evidence — remains — that would prove who died. But he said there are other ways of determining who was killed in the strike. He declined to describe them.

For years, the U.S. has considered Mehsud a lesser threat to its interests than some of the other Pakistani Taliban, their Afghan counterparts and al-Qaida, because most of his attacks were focused inside Pakistan, not against U.S. and NATO troops in Afghanistan.

That view appeared to change in recent months as Mehsud's power grew and concerns mounted that increasing violence in Pakistan could destabilize the U.S. ally and threaten the entire region.

In March, the State Department authorized a reward of up to \$5 million for the militant chief. And increasingly, American missile strikes — falling by the dozens over the past

year — focused on Mehsud-related targets.

While Mehsud's death would be a big blow to the Taliban in Pakistan, he has deputies who could take his place. Whether a new leader could wreak as much havoc in Pakistan as Mehsud could depends largely on how much pressure the Pakistani military continues to put on the Taliban network, especially in South Waziristan.

Pakistan's record is spotty on that front. It has used both military action and truces to try to contain Mehsud over the years, but neither tactic seemed to work, despite billions in U.S. aid aimed at helping the Pakistanis tame the tribal areas.

Mehsud was not that prominent a militant when the U.S. invaded Afghanistan in 2001 after the Sept. 11 attacks, according to Mahmood Shah, a former security chief for the tribal regions. In fact, Mehsud has struggled against such

rivals as Abdullah Mehsud, an Afghan war veteran who had spent time in U.S. custody in Guantanamo Bay.

A February 2005 peace deal with Mehsud appeared to give him room to consolidate and boost his troop strength tremendously, and within months dozens of pro-government tribal elders in the region were gunned down on his command.

In December 2007, Mehsud became the head of a new coalition called the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, or Pakistan's Taliban movement. Under Mehsud's guidance, the group has killed hundreds of Pakistanis in suicide and other attacks. He is believed to have as many as 20,000 fighters at his beck and call, among them a steady supply of suicide bombers.

Analysts say the reason for Mehsud's rise in the militant ranks is his alliances with al-Qaida and other violent extremist

groups. U.S. intelligence has said al-Qaida has set up its operational headquarters in Mehsud's South Waziristan stronghold and the neighboring North Waziristan tribal area.

Mehsud has no record of attacking targets abroad, although he has threatened to attack Washington.

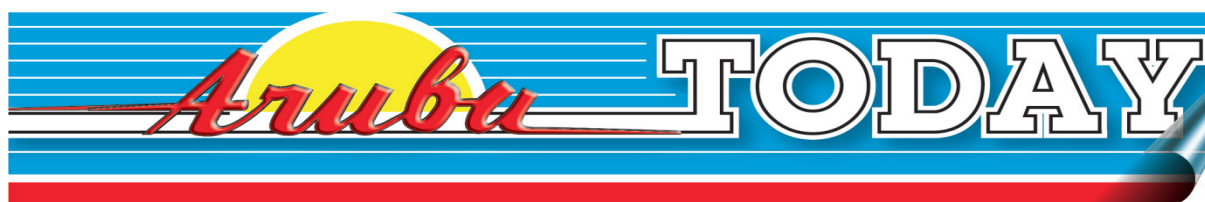
However, he is suspected of being behind a 10-man cell arrested in Barcelona in January 2008 for plotting suicide attacks in Spain. Pakistan's former government and the CIA have named him as the prime suspect behind the December 2007 killing of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. He has denied a role.

He also has withstood threats from within Taliban ranks. A few weeks ago, Qari Zainuddin, the leader of a renegade Pakistani Taliban faction who had criticized Mehsud's tactics, was shot to death — allegedly on Mehsud's orders.

In June of this year, Pakistan said it would launch an offensive against Mehsud in South Waziristan.

In the weeks that have followed, the army has relied heavily on airstrikes to target areas under Mehsud's control, but it has never quite gone full-scale with the offensive. Meantime, the missile strikes continued, raising speculation that the U.S. might get him first.

Pakistan publicly opposes the missile strikes, saying they anger local tribes and make it harder for the army to operate. Still, many analysts suspect the two countries have a secret deal allowing the strikes. □



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U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton places a wreath at Memorial Park in Nairobi, Kenya, Thursday, Aug. 6, 2009, commemorating victims of the Aug. 7, 1998 Embassy Bombings. The attack killed 213 people and injured more than 4,000 civilians. Clinton is in Kenya on the first leg of a seven-nation tour of Africa.

CLINTON

Continued from Page B1

Accusing the extremists of trying to turn Somalia into a base to launch worldwide terrorist attacks, Clinton said the Obama administration would boost military supplies and other aid to the government and an African peacekeeping force supporting it. She did not detail the new aid.

"They see Somalia as a future haven for global terrorism," she said of the extremist Somali militia known as al-

Associated Press Shabab. To make her point, she noted the recent arrests of four men allegedly linked to the group who are suspected of plotting attacks there in Australia.

"Our information is that al-Shabab not only uses foreign fighters and foreign money but foreign ideas in its attack on the people of Somalia," she said.

"There is also no doubt that al-Shabab wants to take control of Somalia and use it as a base from which to influence and

even infiltrate surrounding countries and launch attacks against countries far and near," Clinton said after meeting beleaguered Somali President Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed at the U.S. Embassy in Kenya. Ahmed agreed.

"Their aim is to make Somalia a ground to destabilize the whole world," said Ahmed, who appealed to Clinton for additional resources. "We cannot suffer any longer. The people of Somalia have a right to peace."

Clinton also warned the Red Sea country of Eritrea, accused by the U.S. of supporting al-Shabab, that it would face penalties if it continues to supply the group with arms and funding. "It is long past time for Eritrea to cease and desist its support for al-Shabab," she said.

Although Clinton did not discuss the new assistance, other U.S. officials have said the administration plans to go ahead with additional weapons supplies through African nations to double an initial provision of 40 tons of arms. The U.S. also has begun a low-profile mission to help train Somali security forces in nearby Djibouti, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivities surrounding U.S. involvement in the program.

Ahmed's government, which holds only a few blocks in Mogadishu with support from

the peacekeepers from Uganda and Burundi, said Clinton had promised to "redouble" assistance.

Ahmed said Clinton had made promises of assistance on the "security front" and on the "humanitarian front." He would not elaborate.

Clinton said only that she and President Barack Obama "want to expand and extend our support." She also noted that the U.S. had given nearly \$150 million to support the peacekeeping operation in Somalia over the past two years and said more money would be coming.

U.S. involvement in Somalia is a sensitive subject because of the 1992-94 American military intervention that began as a humanitarian mission to deliver aid supplies to Somalia.

That ended in a humiliating withdrawal months after the 1993 "Black Hawk Down" incident in which two U.S. helicopters were downed and 18 servicemen killed.

A spokesman for al-Shabab said Wednesday that any U.S. assistance to Ahmed's government or the peacekeepers would not stop its forces from fighting and predicted a repeat of the 1993 experience. "Any support America gives the government will not deter us from pursuing our path because we believe Allah and we always hope from him to give us the upper hand," Sheikh Ali Mohamud Rage told

reporters in Mogadishu.

Somalia has not had an effective government since 1991 and the top U.N. envoy for the country has said the country is now at a "turning point" and in desperate need of international support, especially military equipment, training and money.

In addition to its current attacks against the Somali government, the U.S. accuses the al-Shabab of harboring suspects in the 1998 bombing of the American embassies in Kenya and Tanzania.

Earlier Thursday, Clinton honored the victims of the 1998 embassy attacks in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam that killed more than 200 people.

A day before the 11th anniversary of the Aug. 7 bombings, she paid a somber visit to a memorial at the site of the former Nairobi embassy where 218 people died.

The site, she said, is a reminder of "the continuing threat of terrorism, which respects no boundaries, no race, ethnicity or religion, but is aimed at disrupting and denying the opportunity of people to make their own decisions and to lead their own lives."

Clinton placed a wreath at the site, signed a guestbook and met with survivors of the Nairobi bombing. She said it was a day "to renew our resolve to do all that we can to ensure that these attacks don't take more innocent lives in the future." □



In this photo taken on March 12, 2009, jurors listen to a defendant, foreground, during a moot court at Saitama district court in Saitama, north of Tokyo, Japan, in preparation for the start of jury system in Japan in August. Japan opened its first jury trial in post-World War II history Monday, Aug. 3, 2009, under a major overhaul of a legal system that has in the past often been criticized as unfair and arduous.

MARI YAMAGUCHI
Associated Press Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's first jury trial since World War II concluded Thursday with a

mixed group of citizens and professional judges convicting a man of murder and sentencing him to a tougher-than-expected 15 years in prison. The ruling

Japan's first postwar jury convicts man of murder

was the first under the new Japanese jury system, a major overhaul of the country's legal framework aimed at speeding up trials and offering greater transparency.

The system pairs six citizens with three professional judges, and the nine together decide both guilt and sentencing. All nine are considered judges. Until now, all trials were heard only by professional judges.

During the four-day trial, the citizen judges were allowed to ask the defendant questions, though many later said they were too nervous to do so. The son of the victim also took the

stand to appeal to the jury.

The trial in Tokyo District Court found 72-year-old Katsuyoshi Fujii guilty of murder in the fatal stabbing of a 66-year-old neighbor after a quarrel in May. Fujii pleaded guilty but his lawyers sought leniency in the sentencing. Murder carries a maximum penalty of death in Japan, although it is rare in cases involving a single victim.

Presiding Judge Yasuhiro Akiba said the jury sentenced the defendant to 15 years in prison — one year short of what prosecutors had sought — because the stabbing was

not premeditated. But Akiba said the defendant deserved a tough sentence because his attack was persistent and he never called an ambulance.

The citizen judges said it was difficult to decide on the sentence, but they praised the professional judges, prosecutors and defense for making their arguments easy to follow and avoiding the use of legal jargon. Defense lawyer Shunji Date said he is considering appealing the ruling. "The defendant thinks the ruling did not take into consideration his testimony at all," he said. □

Ferry sinks off Tonga; dozens missing, feared dead

PESI FONUA

Associated Press Writer

NUKU'ALOFA, Tonga

(AP) — Giving women and children the comfort of cabins while men stayed on deck may have doomed them to be trapped inside an overnight ferry that capsized in heavy seas off Tonga, officials said. Dozens are missing and feared dead.

Tongan Police Commander Chris Kelly said Friday that the Princess Ashika was carrying 117 passengers and crew — “62 of them unaccounted for” — when it went down around midnight Wednesday, about 55 miles northeast of the South Pacific island nation’s capital, Nuku’alofa.

The 62 missing included four crewmen, 19 male passengers, 21 female passengers, seven children and several names that could be male or female, he told New Zealand’s National Radio.

Fifteen of those rescued “were not on the manifest and this just illustrates the difficulty ... of identifying who was and was not on the boat,” Kelly said.

“No women or children made it,” passenger Siaosi Lavaka was quoted as saying by the Matangi Tonga Web site after he was brought ashore with the other male survivors who managed to cram aboard the ferry’s seven or eight lifeboats.

Only two deaths have been confirmed so far. New Zealand Foreign Minister Murray McCully said one of them was a British citizen. Tongan Prime Minister Feleti Sevele said the tragedy was “big for a small place.”

“This is a huge disaster, a huge loss, we’ll try and cope with it as best we can,” he told reporters in Cairns, Australia, where he was attending the Pacific

Islands Forum.

The missing passengers, mainly Tongan women and children who were sleeping in cabins below deck, likely would have gone down with the ship, he said, so chances they would be found alive “are not great.”

A lot of boats traveled between islands of the archipelago every day and “the ratio of accidents to trips is quite small,” Sevele said.

Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, hosting the summit of South Pacific leaders, indicated the toll was expected to rise.

“There has been considerable loss of life,” Rudd said in the northern Australian city of Cairns. “Our thoughts and our prayers are with the families of those that have been affected by this great tragedy.”

The ferry had been traveling from Nuku’alofa to outlying northern islands of Tonga, which lies in the South Pacific, about two-thirds of the way from Hawaii to New Zealand. Authorities said women and children had been taken below to cabins for the overnight journey. The men stayed up top, sleeping rough in balmy conditions that turned tumultuous.

Lavaka, whose mother was among the missing, said he woke to find the ferry rocking violently and waves breaking over the ferry’s lower decks.

The rocking apparently shifted cargo to one side of the vessel, unbalancing it and turning it over, he said. “We woke up to the sound of shouting and we jumped off,” he said.

A mayday distress call was received from the Princess Ashika shortly before midnight Wednesday and it sank soon after, Kelly said. “It appears that those



Concerned family and members of the community gather near the ports of the Tongan capital, Nuku’alofa, Thursday, Aug. 6, 2009, waiting for news after a ferry carrying 49 passengers and 30 crew sank at around midnight, Wednesday, Aug. 5. Ships and planes are searching South Pacific waters 55 miles northeast of Nuku’alofa for the 23 people missing after the ferry flipped over and sank in heavy seas killing at least one person.

Associated Press

passengers who were inside the vessel in cabin-type accommodation did not actually gain exit; only those who were outside,” Transport Minister Karalus told New Zealand’s Prime News television, explaining why all of the survivors so far were men.

The search for survivors continued Friday, with five boats and an airplane in the search area, where weather conditions were reported to be good with clear visibility.

New Zealand — which has responsibility for maritime emergencies in Tongan waters — sent a military plane to join in, overflying a trail of debris some 10 miles long for most of Thursday and again Friday. Most survivors were picked up from lifeboats within a few hours of the search starting, said New Zealand Rescue Coordination Center Mike Roberts.

“We’re hoping that we’ll find more survivors effectively clinging to wreckage,”

Roberts told New Zealand’s National Radio, adding that water temperatures of about 77 degrees Fahrenheit

added to people’s chances, although no more survivors had been located by sunset Thursday □

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SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

Harrington takes two-shot lead at Firestone



Padraig Harrington, from Ireland, waves to the gallery after making birdie on the seventh hole during the first round of the Bridgestone Invitational golf tournament Thursday, Aug. 6, 2009, at Firestone Country Club in Akron, Ohio. Harrington leads the tournament at 6-under par.

Associated Press

DOUG FERGUSON,
AP Golf Writer

AKRON, Ohio (AP)—Padraig Harrington feels good enough about his swing to concentrate on his results, and it finally paid off Thursday at the Bridgestone Invitational with a 6-under 64 for a two-shot lead.

Harrington has not won a sanctioned tournament since last year at the PGA Championship, when he became the first European in history to win successive majors in the same season.

The Irishman was about the only one not terribly excited.

“There’s no relevance at all,” he said. “It’s just a round of golf.”

It was a good one, though, and it gave him a two-shot lead over Scott Verplank, Tim Clark and Prayad Marksang of Thailand.

Tiger Woods kept alive his streak of breaking par in the opening round for the 11th straight time at Firestone, where he is going for his seventh victory on the tree-lined course. He didn’t do anything special in his round of 68, although it kept him in the picture.

Phil Mickelson got off to a rough start in his return to the PGA Tour. He played bogey-free on his back nine and picked up three birdies to salvage a round of even-par 70.

Harrington spent most of the year working tirelessly on his swing, always looking to improve, never overly concerned when it

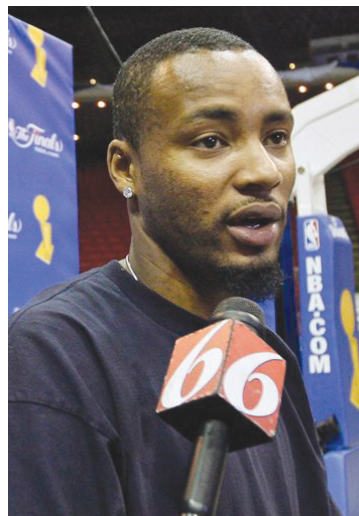
didn’t come together as quickly as he might have wanted. He missed five straight cuts at one point, and hasn’t finished in the top 10 since he opened his season at the Abu Dhabi Championship. On a soft and serene afternoon — and a week before his title defense in the final major of the year — this was a good step. Harrington said that’s all it was.

“It doesn’t change the last six months, it won’t change the next six months,” Harrington said. “It’s only a game of golf, one particular round. I wouldn’t put too much significance into it because what if I went out there and shot 76? Would I let it affect tomorrow? I think I would not put much emphasis on the fact that I shot 64. I’m comfortable with it.”

For all his birdies, it was a par that got him going. Harrington watched a marginal shot take a wicked bounce to the left of the 13th green, his fourth hole of the round, leaving him a tough chip with not much green between him and the flag. He hit it to 5 feet and made the putt.

Those were the pars he wasn’t saving all year, and it seemed to free him up for the rest of the day. He surged into a share of the lead with a 12-foot birdie on No. 1 and a two-putt birdie on the par-5 second, then picked up bonus birdies from about 25 feet on the seventh and eighth holes, the latter from just short of the green.

Continued on Page B12



In this June 10, 2009, file photo, Orlando Magic’s Rashard Lewis talks with reporters at the NBA basketball finals in Orlando, Fla. Magic forward Lewis tested positive for an elevated testosterone level and was suspended Thursday, Aug. 6, 2009, for 10 games.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Orlando Magic forward Rashard Lewis tested positive for an elevated

Magic’s Lewis fails drug test, suspended 10 games

testosterone level and was suspended Thursday for 10 games.

Lewis said in a statement that he took an over-the-counter supplement late last season that included a substance he did not realize was banned by the NBA.

“First and foremost I take full responsibility for the situation and accept the corresponding penalty,” Lewis said. “I apologize to Magic fans, my teammates and this organization for not doing the research that should come with good judgment.”

He will be suspended without pay for the first 10 regular-season games for

which he is eligible and physically able to play.

The Orlando Sentinel first reported the positive test Thursday. Citing unidentified league sources, the newspaper reported the supplement contained DHEA, a steroids precursor.

“I hope every athlete can learn from my mistake that supplements, no matter how innocent they seem, should only be taken after consulting an expert in the field,” Lewis said in his statement.

The 29-year-old Lewis averaged 19.0 points in the playoffs to help lead the Magic to the NBA finals. □



Indiana Fever forward Katie Douglas (23) puts up a shot over Chicago Sky forward Candice Dupree (4) during the second half of a WNBA basketball game in Indianapolis, Wednesday, Aug. 5, 2009. Indiana won 76-67.

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Katie Douglas scored 14 points as the Indiana Fever beat the Chicago Sky 76-67 on Wednesday to improve to 16-4, matching their own 2007

WNBA Roundup Douglas leads Fever past Sky

record for the best 20-game start in Eastern Conference history. The Fever increased their home winning streak to 11 games and improved to 4-0 since the All-Star break.

Candice Dupree had 19 points and 13 rebounds for the Sky (10-11). The Fever led 34-33 at halftime after shooting 32 percent. Consecutive 3-pointers by Tamika Catchings, Douglas and Tully Bevilaqua early in the third quarter increased Indiana’s lead to 10 at 45-35. Chicago cut it to 49-45 late in the period, but the Fever responded with a 13-2 run to take control for good. □

NL Roundup

Brewers beat Dodgers 4-1

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Pitcher Braden Loeper bounced back sharply after a couple of miserable outings, steering the Milwaukee Brewers to a 4-1 win over the Los Angeles Dodgers in the National League on Wednesday.

Loeper appeared set for another poor game when he gave up a leadoff homer in the first, but that was the only run he conceded in 6 2-3 innings as the Brewers won their first series in over a month.

Milwaukee slugger Prince Fielder was booed by the crowd each time he came to bat after Tuesday's antics when he tried to bust into the Dodgers' clubhouse to confront pitcher Guillermo Mota for hitting a batter.

Fielder went 0 for 5, driving in the tying run with a fielder's choice grounder in the third, and stole a base.

Phillies 7, Rockies 0

In Philadelphia, pitcher J.A. Happ struck out a career-high 10 in his second shutout of the season, leading Philadelphia over Colorado.

Happ's latest outstanding outing made a strong argument for him to remain in Philadelphia's rotation, but it may not be enough for the rookie following the recent acquisition of three-time Cy Young Award winner Pedro Martinez. Once Martinez is ready to start, Happ will likely be sent to the bullpen.

Jimmy Rollins, Jayson Werth and Pedro Feliz all homered for the Phillies, who extended their NL East lead to six games and moved within 4-1/2 games of the Dodgers for the overall league lead.

Giants 10, Astros 6

In Houston, pitcher Joe Martinez came off the disabled list to win his first major league start as San Francisco beat Houston.

Martinez pitched in the majors for the first time since he was struck in the head by a line drive on April 9, his second career outing. The 26-year-old rookie gave up three runs in five innings.

Eli Whiteside got his first

career home run in style, hitting a grand slam in the sixth to give the Giants a 7-3 lead.

Mets 9, Cardinals 0

In New York, Nelson Figueroa replaced the injured Jonathon Niese, pitched 4 1-3 scoreless innings and boosted the offense with a two-run triple as New York beat St. Louis.

The Mets took a 5-0 lead in two innings and finished with 15 hits.

Pitcher Niese tore his right hamstring in the second inning when he went to cover first and fell into the splits while trying to complete a double play. He then threw a practice pitch, grimaced and collapsed. He was assisted off the field by two trainers and taken to a hospital.

Figueroa recorded his first major league win this season.

Reds 4, Cubs 0

In Cincinnati, the hosts snapped an eight-game losing streak by shutting out Chicago.

Scott Rolen returned from being hit in the head by a pitch on Sunday, hitting a two-run

homer on his first swing to get his first runs for the Reds since being acquired from Toronto last Friday.

Cleared by a CT scan, Rolen's second-inning homer helped prevent the Cubs going clear atop the NL Central.

In San Diego, Tommy Hanson pitched six solid innings to lead the Braves to victory over San Diego.

Atlanta's 14 hits were all singles, and each Braves regular had at least one hit. On Tuesday, the Braves tied their season high with 17 hits.

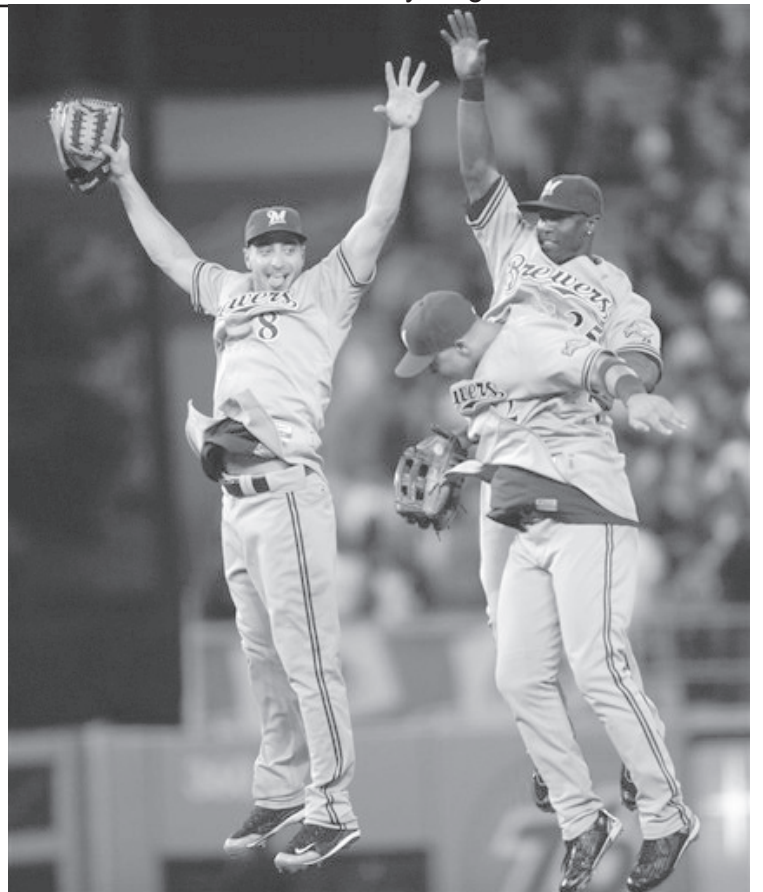
San Diego's Kevin Kouzmanoff matched a team record worst by hitting into three double plays. Atlanta turned four overall.

Hanson gave up two runs and five hits.

In Pittsburgh, Stephen Drew hit a tiebreaking two-run single in the eighth inning as Arizona rallied to pip Pittsburgh.

The Diamondbacks, already out of playoff contention, have won four in a row.

The similarly ambitionless Pirates have dropped four in a



Milwaukee Brewers left fielder Ryan Braun (8), center fielder Mike Cameron, back right, and right fielder Jody Gerut celebrate the Brewers' win over the Los Angeles Dodgers at the end of a baseball game Wednesday, Aug. 5, 2009, in Los Angeles. The Brewers won 4-1.

Associated Press

row. They closed to 4-3 with one out in the bottom of the ninth, but a groundout and a strikeout ended it.

In other NL games it was; N.Y. Mets 9, St. Louis 0; San Francisco 10, Houston 6;

Atlanta 6, San Diego 2; Arizona 4, Pittsburgh 3; Philadelphia 7, Colorado 0; Washington 5, Florida 4; Cincinnati 4, Chicago Cubs 0; and Milwaukee 4, L.A. Dodgers 1. □

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ST. PETERSBURG, Florida (AP) — The Tampa Bay Rays crept closer to Boston in the tightening American League East race, beating the Red Sox 6-4 on Wednesday.

Carlos Pena, Carl Crawford, Pat Burrell and Jason Bartlett all homered as Tampa Bay made it successive wins over Boston, moving within three games of the Red Sox.

Facing Boston for the first time since last season's AL championship series, Rays pitcher David Price allowed only two runs in six innings to improve to 5-1 at home compared to 0-3 with an 8.20 ERA on the road.

Pena hit a two-run homer in the second inning. Crawford, celebrating his 28th birthday, went deep with a man on in the third. Burrell added a solo shot for

a 5-2 lead in the sixth. Jason Bartlett sent one out in the seventh.

White Sox 6, Angels 2

In Chicago, Jim Thome homered twice, giving him 561 for his career, as Chicago downed Los Angeles.

Thome hit a three-run shot in the sixth — his second of the game and 20th of the season. With 561 homers, the 38-year-old is now only two homers behind Reggie Jackson, who is in 12th place all-time.

Gavin Floyd pitched into the ninth for the White Sox, who won their fifth in six games. Floyd, aided by three double plays, allowed two runs in eight-plus innings.

Yankees 8, Blue Jays 4

In Toronto, Johnny Damon hit a solo home run and had three RBIs in New York's win over Toronto.

AL Roundup

Rays creep closer to Red Sox

Nick Swisher also connected for the Yankees, who used a four-run seventh inning to win their third straight game.

The AL East-leading Yankees, winless in eight games against second-placed Boston, return home to open a four-game series against the Red Sox on Thursday.

Athletics 7, Rangers 5

In Oakland, California, Adam Kennedy hit a tiebreaking two-run homer in the sixth inning, helping Oakland beat Texas for the third straight time.

Scott Hairston, Kurt Suzuki and Chad Pennington also homered for the A's.

David Murphy hit a pair of homers for the Rangers.

Tigers 4, Orioles 2

In Detroit, Edwin Jackson pitched eight scoreless innings to guide Detroit over Baltimore.

Jackson ended up conceding two runs but allowed just three hits, walking two and striking out eight. He has allowed a meager two runs in 16 innings over two starts against Baltimore this season.

Magglio Ordonez homered for the Tigers, who maintained a one-game lead atop the AL Central.

Indians 8, Twins 1

In Cleveland, Aaron Laffey rebounded from one of his worst performances to pitch a career-high eight innings and steer Cleveland to a comfortable win over Minnesota.

Laffey gave up one unearned run, struck out five and walked one. It was a marked contrast to his previous start when he ceded seven runs in four innings.

The first three batters in Cleveland's lineup — Grady

Sizemore, Asdrubal Cabrera and Shin-Soo Choo — along with No. 9 hitter Trevor Crowe combined to go 10 for 16 with five runs and seven RBIs.

In Kansas City, Missouri, Ichiro Suzuki had his major league-leading 52nd multi-hit game as Seattle broke out for a win over Kansas City.

Russell Branyan and Jose Lopez drove in three runs apiece for the Mariners.

Everyone in the Seattle lineup had a hit and only two failed to score as the Royals' home record since the All-Star break dropped to 1-10.

In other AL games it was, Detroit 4, Baltimore 2; Cleveland 8, Minnesota 1; N.Y. Yankees 8, Toronto 4; Tampa Bay 6, Boston 4; Seattle 11, Kansas City 6; Chicago White Sox 6, L.A. Angels 2; and Oakland 7, Texas 5. □



Tiger Woods watches his drive on the 11th hole during the first round of the Bridgestone Invitational golf tournament Thursday, Aug. 6, 2009, at Firestone Country Club in Akron, Ohio.

Associated Press

FIRESTONE

Continued from Page B10

Not since his 66-66 weekend at Oakland Hills last year at the PGA has he made the most out of a round, and those last two birdies certainly brightened his mood.

"I walked off the golf course feeling like I got a couple more shots," Harrington said. "And I feel good about the fact that I got one or two more. If I shot 66, I would have said, 'Well, that's about right.' Sixty-four is a little bonus."

In such tame conditions, 40

players were at par or better.

Woods has never opened with worse than a 68 since he first came to Firestone in 1997, and while he wasn't particularly crisp, he came through with birdies on the 12th and 13th holes to alleviate any stress in his start. A week ago, he was tied for 95th after the opening round before winning the Buick Open.

There are only 80 players at this World Golf Championship — and no cut — which helps.

"I hit it good on the front nine in stretches," Woods said.

"Starting out, I hit a couple of bad shots there and in the middle part of the round I got it back. A little scratchy coming in, so it was kind of in spurts today."

British Open champion Stewart Cink, playing 18 holes for the first time since his playoff win over Tom Watson at Turnberry, bogeyed two of his last three holes for a 69. His only disappointment? He wasn't introduced as the British Open champion.

Mickelson has been more focused on his family. His wife and mother are battling breast cancer, although they are progressing enough that he could return to golf.

Two holes into his round, he missed on a flop shot and a 3-foot putt and took double bogey, and Lefty went out in 38. He turned it around, however, and hopes he's not far off.

"I think when you get in competition, I wasn't trusting myself as much," Mickelson said. "The pins start to get tucked, and you can't miss it in certain spots, and I start kind of steering it a little bit. The last eight holes, I made a few better swings." □

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Gobierno facto: Misión OEA no logrará retorno Zelaya: Gobierno facto

TEGUCIGALPA (Reuters)

- Una nueva misión de la OEA que buscará una salida a la crisis en Honduras deberá sortear, incluso antes de nacer, la negativa del Gobierno de facto a permitir el retorno del derrocado presidente Manuel Zelaya, punto que para países como Estados Unidos es la solución.

La misión, aprobada por la Organización de Estados Americanos (OEA) el miércoles y cuyos integrantes aún no han sido anunciados, fue solicitada por el propio presidente de facto Roberto Micheletti, que asumió después de que Zelaya fue expulsado del país por militares el 28 de junio.

Pero desde ya, el Gobierno de facto ratificó su negativa a negociar con quien sea la restauración de Zelaya, punto que trabó la mediación internacional liderada hasta ahora por el presidente costarricense, Oscar Arias.

La misión “no tiene poder ejecutivo ni de determinación, lo que ellos hagan es a título de sugerencia. Un informe de esta comisión puede tener recomendaciones,



Alex Pérez, fotógrafo del diario El Heraldo, coloca su mano frente al escudo de protección de un policía durante una manifestación a favor del depuesto mandatario Manuel Zelaya en Tegucigalpa, 5 ago 2009. El Gobierno de facto de Honduras afirmó el jueves que la nueva misión de la OEA que irá a Tegucigalpa la próxima semana no doblegará su oposición al retorno del presidente derrocado Manuel Zelaya y aseguró que sólo podrá hacer ‘sugerencias’ para terminar con la crisis. REUTERS/Edgard Garrido

sugerencias, pero de ninguna manera órdenes para el Gobierno de Honduras”, dijo a Reuters el ministro de la presidencia interina, Rafael Pineda.

El golpe de Estado en Honduras despertó la condena de

Estados Unidos, que el jueves aseguró que no ha suavizado su posición y que espera que prospere el llamado Acuerdo de San José propuesto por Arias, una opción poco viable a la luz de las declaraciones del Gobierno interino.

Luego de que fuera difundida una carta del Departamento de Estado en la que el Gobierno de Barack Obama parecía menos enérgico sobre Honduras, un portavoz del Departamento de Estado aclaró el jueves que Washington sigue apostando

al plan de Arias.

“No estamos suavizando nuestra posición respecto a Honduras.

Estamos trabajando duro para que ambas partes tomen seriamente los acuerdos de San José. Pensamos que este es el mejor camino para resolver la crisis política”, dijo el portavoz Robert Wood.

La OEA, que suspendió a Honduras días después del golpe de Estado, prevé anunciar el viernes quiénes integrarán la misión, que representa un esfuerzo por destrabar la mediación en la que ambas partes han dicho que están dispuestos a dialogar, pero en la que ninguna cede un ápice.

El Gobierno interino pidió a la OEA una actitud “sin inclinación parcial”, pese a que no cede en el punto del retorno de Zelaya.

“La posición del Gobierno es vertical, inquebrantable. Ese no es tema de negociación (el regreso de Zelaya) y no tendría por qué serlo ahora”, dijo Pineda, y reiteró que Micheletti está dispuesto a renunciar si un tercero asume el poder. □

Presidente Uribe gana respeto de Brasil

Lula pide transparencia sobre uso de EEUU de bases militares en Colombia

BRASILIA (Reuters) - El presidente Alvaro Uribe cosechó el jueves el clave respeto de Brasil a su decisión de permitir a Estados Unidos el uso de bases militares en Colombia, pero también recibió un pedido de su colega Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva de mayor transparencia y reflexión.

Uribe culminó en Brasilia una gira regional destinada a informar sobre el plan, que desató ásperas reacciones de mandatarios izquierdistas vecinos, principalmente del venezolano Hugo Chávez, un duro crítico de Washington.

“Volvimos a reiterar que el acuerdo con Estados Unidos, que sea específico y delimitado al territorio colombiano, es una materia naturalmente de soberanía de Colombia”, dijo el canciller de Brasil, Celso Amorim, tras la reunión.

Durante su gira de tres días, destinada a sofocar las fuertes tensiones desatadas por el previsto pacto militar entre Colombia y Estados Unidos, Uribe consiguió el apoyo a la soberanía de sus decisiones de parte de Chile, Paraguay y Perú.

Pero el mandatario colombiano también recibió en

Brasilia sugerencias de una mayor transparencia y reflexión, así como la indicación de que el Consejo de Defensa Sudamericano sería un foro adecuado para abordar el tema.

Esa posición brasileña apuntaría a limar asperezas con mandatarios duramente críticos al propuesto acuerdo militar entre Colombia y Estados Unidos, como Chávez, el boliviano Evo Morales y el ecuatoriano Rafael Correa.

Al preguntársele sobre si se habían planteado garantías de que las operaciones militares del previsto acuerdo con Estados Unidos se limitarían a territorio colombiano, Amorim dijo que creía que “eso será objeto de reflexión”.

Asimismo, agregó que Brasil planteó “una sugerencia de una mayor transparencia y tenemos que ver exactamente si eso satisface nuestras dudas o no”.

Lula dijo la semana pasada que se podría convocar al Consejo de Defensa Sudamericano para que se reuniera en Quito, en el marco de una cumbre de la Unasur, a fin de abordar “el problema de seguridad

de nuestras fronteras y, sobre todo, el problema de que Colombia tenga una base estadounidense”.

La Unión de Naciones Suramericanas (Unasur) realizará una cumbre en la capital ecuatoriana el 10 de agosto, pero funcionarios de Colombia anunciaron que Uribe no asistiría.

Respondiendo a preguntas de periodistas sobre si el presidente colombiano iría a la cumbre, el canciller brasileño dijo: “Mi impresión es de que no va”.

Antes de la llegada de Uribe a Brasilia procedente de Montevideo, donde se reunió con el presidente Tabaré Vázquez, Bogotá ya consideraba “positiva” la gira por haber recibido el respaldo a su soberanía de Chile, Paraguay y Perú.

“Es una gira positiva, el presidente ha sido muy claro, ha sido concreto en sus explicaciones y ha estrechado sus lazos de hermandad con todos los países de Sudamérica”, dijo en la capital uruguaya el secretario de prensa de la presidencia de Colombia, César Mauricio Velázquez. □



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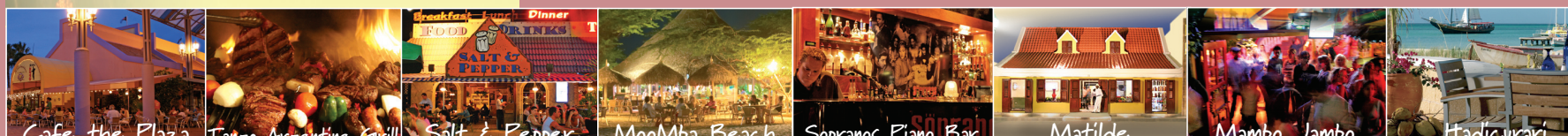
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